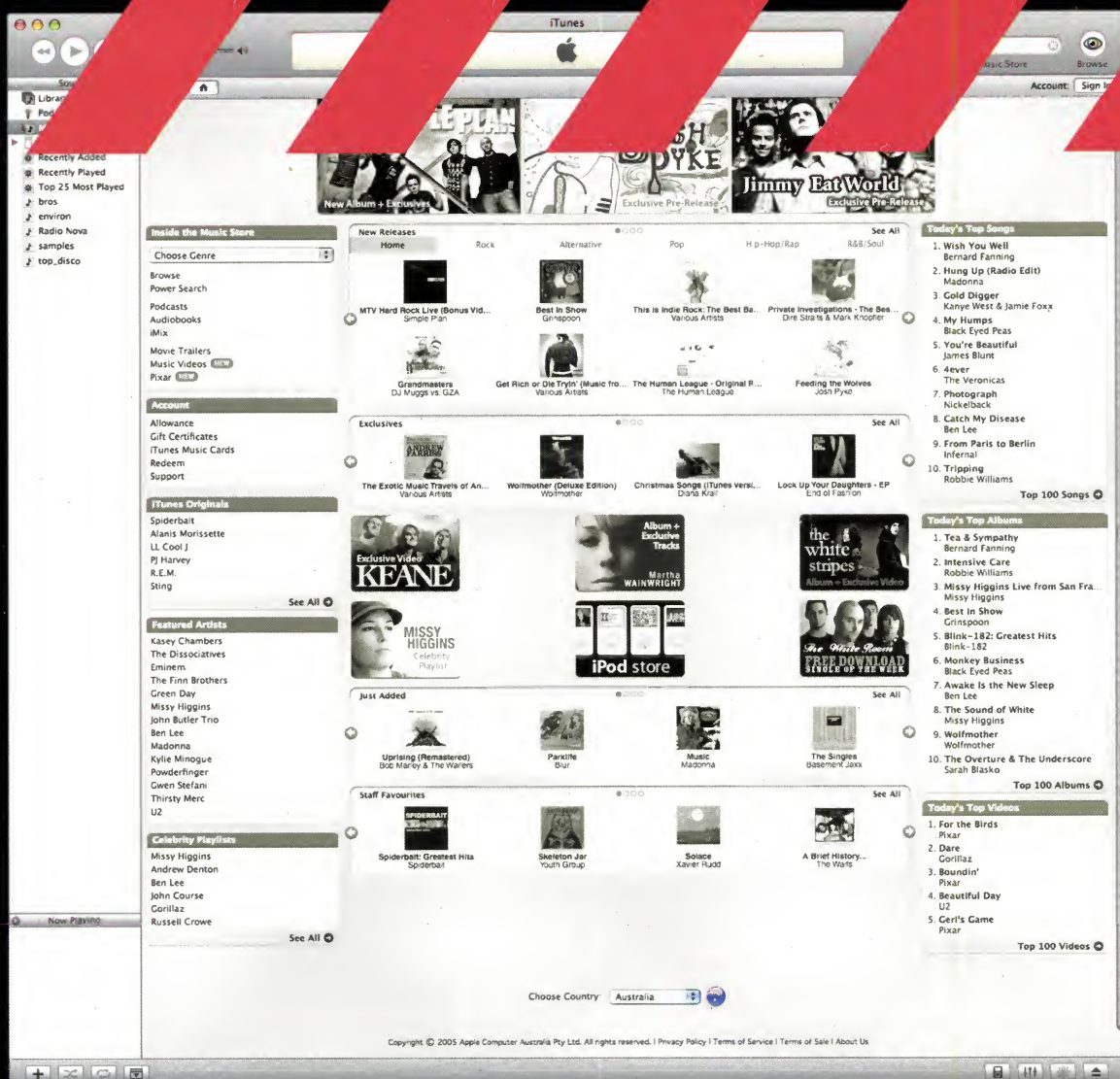


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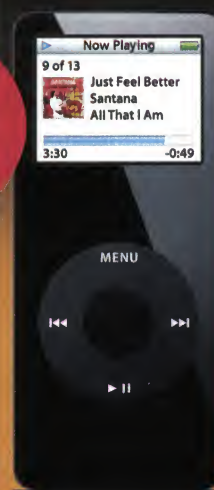
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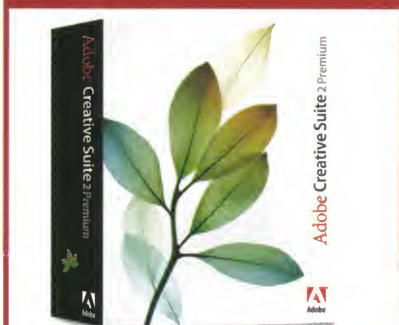
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## iPod

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# The all-new iMac G5

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## Meet the iPod family, in-store now.



iPod with video from \$449



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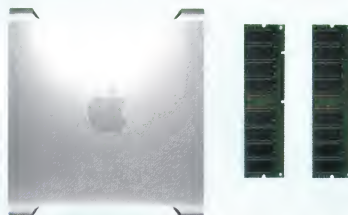
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## Focus.

030

## Gear and gadget guide

By various authors

Stuck for gift ideas for the Machead in your life? Here's a few of the items on our wish list, which just might give you a few ideas.

## The Hub.

### Video.

045

Video camera roundup

### Photo.

051

Wireless cameras from Kodak and Nikon

### Music.

054

Inside the iTunes Music Store

### Mobile.

058

What to take on your holidays

## How to.

### Keep in touch on the road

063

Web apps work anywhere

### Help folder

068

Queries and tips from our readers

## Win an iPod speaker system!

072

An Altec Lansing InMotion 7 up for grabs.



## Buzz.

### Apple transforms 021

With the iTunes Music Store now reaching into 21 countries (including Australia — finally!) and an increasing portion of Apple's revenues coming from iPod sales, it's time to ask the question: is Apple still a computer company, or is it a media company that happens to make computers?

## Interface.

### Commentary 014

### Mailbox 017

### Off the net 027

### Re:Seller 028

### NetWorth 042

### Education 061

### ReadMe 070

### Soapbox 090

## Test drive.

### BenQ FP71G+S

4 1/2

### DiamondDigital DV177SB

4 1/2

### ViewSonic VX724

4 1/2

### SyncMaster 740N

4 1/2

### LG Flatron L1750

4 1/2

### Philips 170S6

4 1/2

### AMW lab: budget 17-inch LCD monitors

073

More than ever for your money

### 5G iPod (with video)

4 1/2

076

Still the best music player (with video)

### Dreamweaver 8

4 1/2

### Flash Professional 8

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078

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084

Stresses security and encryption, brings Tiger compatibility



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From the Macintosh scene to the magazine.

By Matthew JC. Powell.



Hot Links

[www.apple.com/au/itunes](http://www.apple.com/au/itunes)

# A slight exaggeration

**O**K, I'll admit it. The cover line on the front of this magazine is, perhaps, turning to black and white the situation somewhat. It is not, in fact, my belief that the iTunes Music Store will "dismantle" the music industry in this country. To allege that it will is lurid, sensationalist and provocative. But it got you to look in the magazine, didn't it?

Oh, we editor types are shameless.

I do believe that the iTunes Music Store will have an indelible and profound effect on the way music is sold in this country, and the expectations that artists, labels and customers will have for future transactions. It would perhaps have been more accurate to call the issue "How to alter the way the music industry works," but that wouldn't have fit in the space allowed. Nor would it have been as good a pun on the U2 cover it parodies.

Already the effect of iTunes is being felt by traditional music retailers such as HMV, which announced just after the Store opened locally that it would be dropping the prices of its CDs. The average price of a CD at HMV has apparently dropped from \$30ish to \$22ish (I haven't shopped at HMV for so long I can only report what I've read). Note that the widespread presence of shops selling CDs for \$10 or less has not forced such a move from HMV, nor has the presence of other online retailers such as BigPond. It's iTunes they're afraid of.

The music industry's business expectations have changed. They can no longer presume that people will pay for a 20-song album with four listenable tracks. They can no longer presume that the physical object of a CD is worth a 100-percent price premium. They've already had to accept that people are going to copy their music and play it on multiple devices.

iTunes moves control over the music you buy into your hands, not the record companies'. It's a level of control you used to have to steal music to obtain.

There are encouraging signs that the industry is accepting these changes and changing to meet them. The ongoing brouhaha with Sony/BMG is worrying, but not insurmountable – both parties know which way music will be sold in the future.

**New for old.** It will be interesting to see if the iTunes Store can also be influenced by its competitors. Apple has come under criticism, here and elsewhere, for the fact that it won't replace songs that are lost as a result of your computer being lost, stolen or destroyed. Apple argues that traditional CD retailers won't replace your CDs if they're stolen, so why should Apple?

Because, the critics reply, you can. Unlike HMV, Apple will have a record of exactly what songs you bought and when, and

## What price a song?

After complaining for so long that we still didn't have an iTunes Music Store, I was a bit worried that my readers would have nothing left to complain about once it opened. I shouldn't have worried. Within days I had my first letters complaining that the cost per song, at \$1.69, equates to \$US1.23, and that in order for us to be paying the same as our American friends, songs here ought to cost only \$1.35 or so.

No-one has yet explained to me why we ought to be paying the same as our American friends, given that the deal for the Australian Store has been struck between Apple Australia and the Australian arms of the various record companies. It's not the same deal.

Pop over to the land of Abba, for instance, and you'll see that Swedes pay nine Kroner for their songs. That's more than the Americans (\$US1.17), but slightly less than us (\$A1.59). Pop into the UK store, and you'll see that poms pay £0.79, which equates to \$US1.37, or \$A1.88.

So what difference does it make? What does it matter that we're paying a little less than the poms?

It doesn't. No more than it makes any difference we're paying more than the yanks. If \$1.69 seems like an unfair price per song to you, don't pay it — stick with paying \$22-plus for CDs, and hope there's at least 13 good songs on every one.

how much you paid. If you can prove that the songs are no longer in your possession, you arguably ought to be able to have them replaced.

(My own view, for the record, is that you ought to back up your songs the second you buy them and keep the backups safe. But I'm big on backing stuff up).

Vodafone's online music store, selling songs exclusively for use on 3G mobile phones, promises that if your phone gets lost or stolen, you can replace the songs you bought at no charge. Vodafone's rights management is a great deal stricter than Apple's — you can't copy the songs from your phone to any other device, so you haven't the option of a backup — but still the replacement offer demonstrates that such a thing can be done in this dawning age.

Will Apple expand its customer protection in response? Wait and see. ☞

*Matthew J.C. Powell*





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### Hot Links

[www.apple.com/au/support/itunes/musicstore/](http://www.apple.com/au/support/itunes/musicstore/)  
Help with the Australian iTunes Music Store

## Your call is important ...

For those people like me holding their breath for an Australian iTunes Music Store, there must have been a collective exhale across the country when the announcement of its release went out.

I was keen to get on and purchase music like all those people around the world who have been doing it for years now. The purchase experience, I have to say, was dead easy. Unfortunately, after downloading an album I discovered that two song files had been truncated. So, off to Apple's ITMS customer service, found in iTunes Help menu (that seemed straightforward). This took me to Apple's web site and gave me a few help subjects to click on (none of which fulfilled my problem).

Then, follow another link to Music Store support (secreted down the bottom of the page). Finally I found a page that allowed me to "email" someone for assistance. OK, I'm finally going to deal with a human being who can fix the problem! Not.

The "email" in fact was a form. After I had written a long spiel about my problem, I went through another authorisation window, only for the form to fail and return error message saying that the form couldn't be sent. I got the feeling they didn't want to hear bad news.

So what's next? Good question as there is no way to contact anyone, either by phone

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or real e-mail, about how to fix my problem.

Apple really needs to get this in order if they want the ITMS to flourish. My first experience was a bad one and I'm not likely to rush back and buy another album when the support system is so flawed.

**Craig Molyneux**  
Melbourne, Victoria

*Apple declined a right of reply to this letter, Craig, so you're stuck with what advice I can give you.*

*One thing to note is that using the iTunes Music Store Help menu item takes you to the US web site, not the Australian one. You access the Australian help site by clicking on the "Support" link under "Account" on the Music Store main page (or see "Hot links" for the URL). That may not be your only problem, though: I sent through a help query myself on 29 October, and as of press time (15 November) have had no answer despite a promise of 72-hour response time.*

*Steve Jobs says the iTunes Music Store is competing with piracy. It can't beat the pirates' price, so it has to beat the pirates on customer experience and service. So far my experience of customer service — and yours — is not exactly winning. — M.J.C.P.*

## Smoke and mirrors

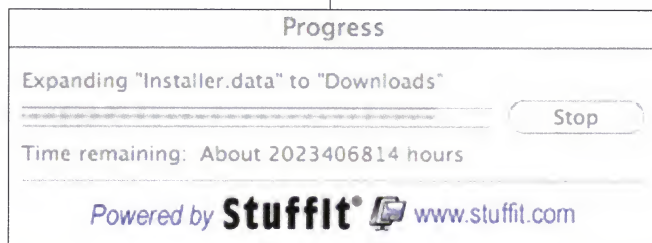
I thought it a slightly hollow announcement when Steve revealed the Front Row software. So you can control your Mac from across the room, show DVDs, play music, all from your lounge. But why would you want to? Even the 20-inch iMac is still small when compared to most TVs. Later I heard Steve compare the beautifully simple remote that comes with the new iMacs against the cumbersome remote that is supplied with Windows Media Centre computers.

Why was it then that I felt distinctly uncomfortable when my colleague showed me what he could do with his newly acquired Windows Media Center. Out of the box he can tune into and record local radio stations, record and play back local TV stations — both digital and analogue — and notwithstanding the legality or otherwise burn them to DVD then plug his TV into the computer so all this is available on his normal TV. In one stroke he now does not need a video recorder or a DVD player or a radio. Now there is a real reason to have a remote, even one so disparagingly referred to by Steve.

Steve's Front Row announcement was more smoke and mirrors. Why would his attentive audience applaud an app when all it does is give you a remote to make your computer do what you would normally do with your mouse anyway. It has no point. It was a poor attempt to equip Macs with a remote to

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match those pesky Windows machines. Only trouble is, those pesky Windows machines can do so much they really do need a remote.

**Ray Watts**  
Sydney, NSW

### This may take a moment

Thought you may appreciate the dialogue box presented to me whilst unstuffing a Portfolio update A. The calculator widget does not have enough places to calculate this many hours to days!

2023406814 hours =  
84,308,617.25 days =  
230,982.5 years.

Damn! Thankfully it took less than a minute, but in that time I had envisaged an upgrade to the new dual core G5. Oh well a bit too quick, but still nice to dream.

**Tony Gay**  
St Kilda Vic

### Virtually obsolete

As a long-time Mac user relying on Microsoft VPC for so many (slow) years to meet my personal and work related

software needs. I am very please to declare my dependency is over!

Since moving to OS X in September last year (I keep my Macs for a long time) and upgrading to VPC 6, I have happily not installed one piece of Windows software on the virtual disk. The time has arrived where I have now reclaimed the 3GB black hole tainted by Windows XP on my hard drive for use by my data.

I would like to thank Connectix for the years of support, which allowed me to survive the hard times while most of what surrounds me at work turned Windows.

**David Gaston**  
Shellharbour, NSW

### A sense of humour

I just had to put finger to keyboard after reading Harry Leith's letter (Don't tread on me, Mailbox, 11.2005). Seems like he's suffering from that oh-so-Australian characteristic of taking things too seriously and sad inability to be objective.

I thought Alex's article (Soapbox, 10.2005) was

hilarious. He wasn't really suggesting a link between PC use and violence, Harry, he was having a laugh.

Some years ago I worked in a company that employed technical writers and illustrators, all using PCs — and designers, all using Macs. We always used to joke about the PCs being so dumb they were like someone who wouldn't recognise a biscuit unless it had a big label with "BISCUIT" stuck on it (.jpg .eps .biscot) and that they kept telling you what to call things.

Maybe I'm just a flake, but can someone explain to me in simple terms how a load of really smart computer designers, spending countless time and many millions of dollars, couldn't come up with a computer that stops you using "/" in a filename? What about "~"?

OK you ask, why's it a problem? Well, Macs never did that. Macs were Free Thinkers. Macs let you stay up late on a school night. So, brain-the-size-of-a-planet-computer and there's a spinning rainbow disk on the screen. Where's the restart button? Have to unplug it. I think I'm losing my hair...

**John Curlie**  
Milton Qld

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December 2005 / Issue No. 95

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is a publication of Niche Media Pty Ltd  
ABN 13 064 613 529  
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#### CTP/Print

Craftsman Press  
ISSN 1329-9484

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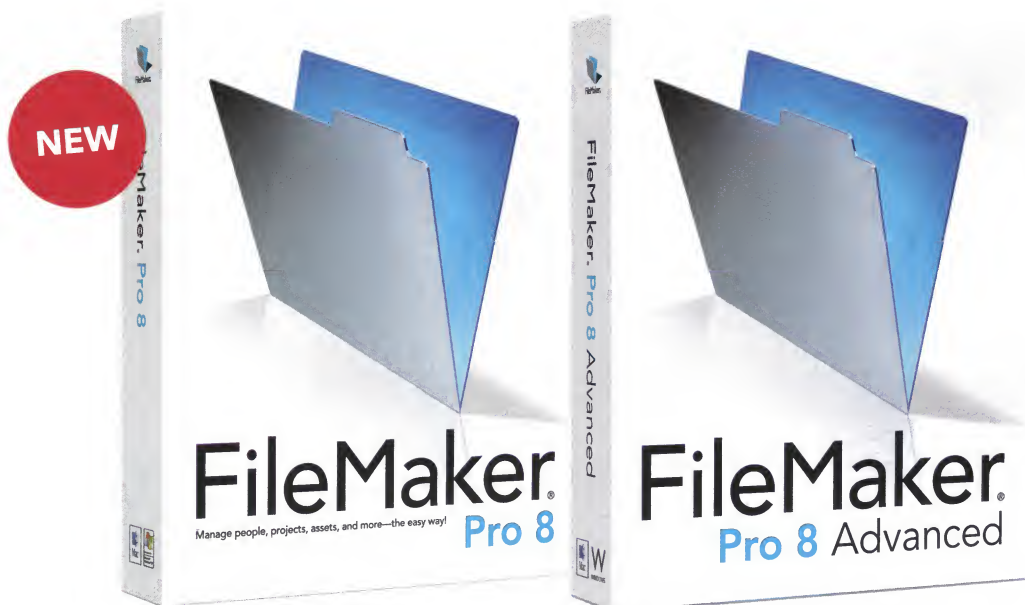


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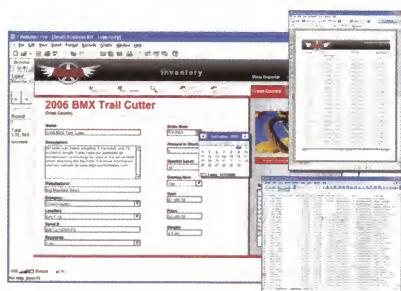


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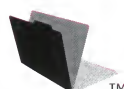
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Mac rumour site

## iTMS details leaked

ACCORDING to a report on the Mac rumour site Think Secret, details of Apple's agreements with local record companies for the Australian version of the iTunes Music Store have been disclosed by anonymous sources within a few weeks of the store opening. The iTunes Music Store opened for business on the 25th of October, and the report on Think Secret appeared on the 7th of November. Such detailed information about the inner workings of the Store have not previously been available in any other territory.

According to the report, the terms of agreements with different companies can vary, but typically the computer maker is paying 99 cents per song, excluding GST (it then charges \$1.69 including GST per song). Album pricing is more complex (as it is for traditional bricks and mortar retailers) and costs per album range from \$5.99 to \$11.99 excluding GST. The price Apple charges for albums also varies accordingly. The record companies are not permitted to alter the wholesale prices they charge Apple for tracks, but Apple is permitted to change the prices it charges customers – though it must consult with the record companies when doing so.

Interestingly, a stipulation in the agreements guarantees that Apple's wholesale price for albums will not exceed the aggregate

cost of buying the songs separately, in keeping with Apple's policy of charging less for albums with fewer songs. Apple also explicitly retains the right to sell all songs separately and as part of albums, with the exception of certain special promotions. This is reportedly a sticking point with some labels in the US, where the record companies want Apple to charge more for some singles than others. Whether this is the point in the negotiations that has proved insurmountable so far for Sony/BMG, which is yet to add its catalogue to the Australian iTMS's offerings, remains to be seen.

Both Apple and Sony have said they want to see the Sony catalogue as part of the Australian Store, but neither company has said what barrier is preventing that from happening. At the launch of the Australian iTMS, Apple's executive responsible for iTunes Music Stores, Eddie Cue, excluded price and file format considerations as reasons for the impasse, but would not be drawn on what the problem actually is.



**In case of emergency.** Apple also, according to Think Secret, disclaims liability for breaches of security on the Store. If someone manages to compromise Apple's security and steal songs unencrypted, Apple has 30 days to remedy the situation. After that it says it will remove any compromised songs from the Store. If the copy protection on iTMS songs is broken (as has happened several times in the past) Apple will have 24 hours to remedy the situation or pull content from the Store.

Apple has aggressively defended its Digital Rights Management scheme in the past, against threats from individuals and companies wishing to make iTMS content playable on computers running Linux and music players other than iPods.

The Think Secret report also claims that Apple keeps records of iTMS purchases for two years, during which time record companies can have the records audited by an independent accountant, should they feel the need. This revelation may lend fodder to those who say that Apple should be willing to replace songs that are lost or stolen after purchase from the iTMS – a service Apple has refused to offer, but which is starting to become available from some of its digital-distribution competitors.

The alternative, of course, is to maintain a backup of everything you buy. ● Matthew JC. Powell



## ■ ANALYSIS



## Hot Links

[www.apple.com/au/ipod](http://www.apple.com/au/ipod)  
One thing that changes everything

## Is Apple moving away from its computer roots?

FROM the day the iPod debuted, there was little doubt the diminutive music player would become a significant product for Apple. With its ability to play MP3 files and sync up with the jukebox software on your Mac, the iPod immediately leapt to the top of the crowded field of handheld music players.

But the iPod turned out to be significant in other — and more lasting — ways as well. The device marked Apple's first major step into the realm of digital media beyond its standard software and computer offerings. Four years after the iPod's release, the company has only expanded its digital-media presence.

Indeed, thanks to the iPod, the iTunes Music Store, and other digital-media efforts, Apple's image as a company has undergone a dramatic shift to the point where the age-old question about Apple — is it a hardware company or a software maker — has morphed into a new query. Is Apple a computer maker or a media company?

Consider Apple's most recent round of product releases. The latest iPods play back videos, including content you can buy off of Apple from the iTunes Music Store. Even Apple computers are becoming more media-centric — at the centrepiece of the latest iMac is a new application called Front Row that lets you control movie, music, and slideshow playback. Once upon a time, Apple touted its computers as the centre of a "digital hub" — now, the company has actually released a computer with the explicit purpose of managing your digital-media experiences. How long before that pervades the rest of Apple's product offerings?

**Age of the iPod.** Before tackling that question, we should look at the key role the iPod has played in influencing Apple's brand identity as well as its financial results. In its most recent financial quarter, Apple reported a profit of \$US430 million on revenue of \$US3.68 billion — the highest revenue and earnings in the company's history. During that three-month period, the

company shipped 1.2 million Macs — and nearly 6.5 million iPods. That's a 220 percent jump in iPod shipments from the year-ago quarter, compared to a 48 percent increase in Macs.

And the iPod business should continue growing, analysts say. Earlier this week, Piper Jaffray senior analyst Gene Munster forecast that Apple would ship 37 million iPods in 2005, providing the company "with a greater scope of awareness for various products." That's the iPod halo effect, a theory that the iPod's success will push sales of other Apple products — including Macs — upward.

If there was any lingering doubt about the importance of the iPod to Apple, the company removed it in mid-2004 when CEO Steve Jobs restructured the company to create two new divisions — iPod and Macintosh. Separate teams now oversee the development of both product lines.



### "Still a computer company".

Despite that restructuring and the iPod's role in boosting Apple's fortunes, analysts still see the Mac as an important part of the company's offerings.

"At this point, the state of the online media market is immature enough that [Apple is] still a physical goods company and a company that is driven by great engineering and integration," NPD analyst Ross Rubin says. The company is "still deriving the majority of ... revenue from the hardware. I don't think the content is driving the hardware, yet."

"Clearly, they are still a computer company," agrees Technology Business Research analyst Tim Deal, but that could change with continued growth from the iTunes Music Store — particularly if Apple

comes to dominate on-demand video sales the way it has music.

"The Apple of the future will be more of a media company," Deal says. "The media will create demand for the hardware — it may not count as much on the revenue side, but it is becoming a big part of Apple's identity."

That future is still a ways off, however. And while Apple's digital-media moves are grabbing headlines, the company is still making its presence felt in its more traditional business.

Take the announcement that Apple will shift to Intel-built processors for its laptops and desktops. Such a dramatic move — made because Apple considers Intel's offerings more promising for the computers it hopes to deliver — signals that Apple still places a premium on innovative hardware. The same could be said on the software front, where Apple rolled out a major upgrade to its operating system that contained several significant advances.

Still, Apple's moves in the digital-media market bear watching, particularly in terms of how they'll affect hardware and software development.

"There is a long future ahead for the Mac," Rubin says. "I don't think Apple would switch to a new processor core if they weren't looking to carry the Mac ahead for the foreseeable future." ● *Jim Dalrymple*





## Hot Links

[www.apple.com/au/aperture](http://www.apple.com/au/aperture)  
No threat to Photoshop

## Apple says Aperture not a Photoshop competitor

**I**N October Apple entered into a new market segment with the announcement of its first professional-level photography application: Aperture. Once the sole domain of Adobe Systems' Photoshop, Aperture appeals to photographers by simplifying the workflow issues many professionals have encountered over the years.

"I was blown away," renowned sports photographer, Heinz Klutmeier, said after Apple's announcement in New York. "I think it's going to revolutionise photography because it is going to let photographers do what they do best – take pictures."

Even though Aperture seems to be squaring off with Adobe's market leading Photoshop, Apple executives said the application is not meant to compete with Adobe. "We are positioning this as an all-in-one solution," said Rob Schoeben, Apple's vice president of Applications Marketing. "We know photographers use Photoshop, so we integrated support into Aperture."

Schoeben explained that Aperture supports Photoshop's PSD files. Specifically, Aperture can open and manipulate the files, but it cannot work with individual layers.

"Photoshop is a versatile application and there is some overlap with Aperture," said NPD analyst Ross Rubin. "However, Aperture is really about workflow, while Photoshop is used for things like compositing. Certainly this is addressing issues for a significant amount of the Photoshop user base. If I were Adobe, I would consider this a shot across my bow."

Apple said that Aperture opens up a whole new category for photo applications. The company set out to eliminate many of the issues that pros have been facing over the years as they move from their familiar print workflow to the digital workspace.

"This is a one of a kind application," said Schoeben. "This is really an entire new category. We take making a new application very seriously – we look at how it should work, not how it has evolved in the market over the years."

Among its many features, Aperture works with RAW images natively throughout the application. There is no intermediate conversion process and the application uses a non-destructive image-processing engine, which leaves the original image untouched. "People have been bragging about RAW for too long – we felt it was time to deliver," said Schoeben.

In addition to its backend power, Aperture has a well thought out interface that allows photographers to view and manipulate images in full-screen mode. Tools appear using the keyboard or your mouse and have the familiar Apple transitions when working with images.

"We are Apple – we put a lot of work into the finishing touches; a lot of companies just don't get that," said Schoeben. ● *Jim Dalrymple*

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## ■ PRO FILE



## Hot Links

www.cyanworlds.com  
Home of Myst

## The brains behind Myst

**I**N the late 1980s a pair of brothers, Rand and Robyn Miller, founded a game development studio called Cyan. They created a series of memorable children's games including *The Manhole*, *Cosmic Osmo* and *Spelunx*, gradually winning critical praise and seeing commercial success for creating non-violent games in which players were encouraged to spend time solving problems rather than reacting with their trigger fingers.

In the early 1990s the brothers — along with artist Chuck Carter and audio engineer Chris Brandkamp — would create one of the most memorable and enduring games in the history of the medium: *Myst*. *Myst* combined non-violent, non-aggressive exploration with puzzle solving and beautiful pre-rendered scenes that were a visual feast for the eyes, equally appropriate for kids and adults alike.

In an industry that had already been defined by shoot-em-ups and arcade games of all shapes and sizes, *Myst* was something very different, and it proved to be very popular, becoming one of the best-selling computer games in history. *Myst* spawned not just a sequel but an entire series of games: *Riven*, *Myst III: Exile*, *Myst IV: Revelation*, a PC-only game called *Uru*, and most recently, *Myst V: End of Ages*.

**End of an era.** With the release of *Myst V: End of Ages*, Cyan Worlds has officially offered the closing chapter of the *Myst* saga, 13 years after it got started.

"I should preface this by saying that *Myst V* was the fastest *Myst* we've ever done," said Cyan co-founder Rand Miller, who reports that it took about a year to create the game. "*Myst V* completes the story the way it needed to end," says Miller. "It's a place we knew we'd go. You plan the broad strokes and not the details."

While previous *Myst* games have been referred to derisively by critics as "slide shows" for their node-based navigation systems and still imagery, *Myst V* breaks out of that once and for all. The entire game is an advanced graphics engine that incorporates real-time environmental details and the ability to navigate the environment freely. Rather than using live-action movies to show actors, the actors' faces have actually been mapped onto 3D characters.

"The most difficult aspect to this project was having the classic *Myst* navigation in the real-time engine," said Miller. While

players are free to move about the environment similarly to how they would in a first person shooter, for example, they can also adopt a more "classic" navigation system that uses node-based navigation much like earlier *Myst* games have.

The story of *Myst* involves the Art of Writing, a mystical effort that enables the writer to create books that transport their readers to different worlds, or Ages. As players proceed through the games, they discover that the practice of this art has had a horrible effect on the D'ni, a race of people central to the game. *Myst V* brings the story full-circle, putting in the player's hands the ultimate fate of the D'ni.

**A Mac fan.** *Myst* got its start on the Mac platform, and Miller himself hasn't strayed. He said that he's got a house full of Macs. "When we were developing *Uru*," said Miller, referring to the one *Myst* instalment that didn't make it to the Mac, "I just took a PC home from the office to play it. I refused to spend my hard-earned money [on a PC]."

For Miller, there's a strong synergy between Macs and *Myst*. A lot

of it comes down to aesthetic considerations, he believes — something that Miller believes give Mac users an edge up compared to many other computer users. "If you're not going to stop and appreciate the scenery, you're not going to enjoy *Myst*," said Miller. "The same thing applies on the Mac as well."

**Rising from the ashes.** Things looked bad for Cyan Worlds in September, shortly after it was announced that *Myst V: End of Ages* was shipping. Rumours began to circulate that Cyan Worlds would be closing its doors — and soon thereafter it

was announced that the rumours were true.

"What a crazy roller coaster we've been on," said Miller. Miller said that with the *Myst* series finally wrapped up, the company sought publishing partners — and money — to work on new projects. "One of [the projects] we considered to be very unique. It had a lot of the feel that *Myst* did when we first did it. I'll use the word 'risky,'" he said. "It's something that stepped out, what we've code-named The Lattice Project."

The costs of producing an A-list title regularly run into the millions of dollars, and with such large financing on the line, major commercial game publishers are reluctant to invest in anything they don't see as a sure-fire win.

"When it came to closing a deal before we ran out of money, it didn't happen," said Miller. That wasn't the end of the story, however.

"We still had a few irons in some fires, and one of them seemed to fall into place the next week," said Miller. Cyan Worlds would keep its doors open after all. "Just about everyone came back, almost all of the key people."

Miller was unable to discuss any of the specifics behind the deal that has allowed Cyan Worlds to keep its doors open, but hopes to offer more public details within the next month or two.

● Peter Cohen





## ■ BRIEFS



### Hot Links

[www.power.com.au](http://www.power.com.au)  
AppleCentre of the year  
[www.johnlennon.com](http://www.johnlennon.com)  
Give iTunes a chance

## iPod sales key to AppleCentre's success

**I** VANHOE, Victoria-based Desktop Power has won the 2005 AppleCentre of the Year award, presented in a ceremony on Hayman Island at the end of October. Desktop Power principal Phil Warren says he believes the store's focus on iPods and accessories helped it not only to achieve, but exceed its sales targets.

Warren cited market research indicating that for each iPod sold there are two accessories accompanying the purchase, "and that would be our experience as well". He also cited the strong knowledge of Desktop Power's staff and an emphasis on customer service as contributing to the AppleCentre's success as a local "port of call" for customers interested in Apple goods, and therefore to its success in the award. ● *Matthew JC. Powell*

## John Lennon music offered digitally; but not on iTunes

**P**ERHAPS one of the greatest songwriters in music history will soon have his music available for digital download. Former Beatles frontman John Lennon's entire solo catalogue will be made available on several online music services, but not on Apple's iTunes Music Service.

Lennon's music will be made available on Real/Rhapsody, Napster, MSN and Yahoo! Unlimited. Apple Computer's market-leading iTunes Music service was conspicuously missing from the list, perhaps due to the ongoing legal battle Apple and Beatles parent company, Apple Corps have been waging.

The companies wrangled in the early 1990s when they agreed to a settlement that specified that Apple Computer would keep its trademark on computers, not music. That changed with the introduction of the iTunes Music Store. Apple Corps claims that Apple broke the agreement when the company launched the iTunes Music Store.

"I am very happy that John's music is now available to a new generation of music fans," said Yoko Ono. "New technology is something he always embraced and this is something he would have loved."

Lennon's greatest hits album "Working Class Hero," which was released on CD in the UK and US in October, is available to purchase in download form now. The entire Lennon solo catalogue will then be made available digitally beginning December 5th. ● *Jim Dalrymple*



External  
Drives



Memory



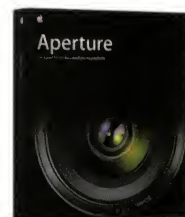
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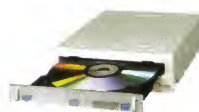
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## ■ USERS AND GROUPS

**Hot Links**

matthew.powell@niche.com.au

Know of a MUG that isn't listed here? Let me know

## The auld MUG

**W**HETHER you've just bought someone a Mac for Christmas, or whether you're about to get one, there's no better accessory to go with it than membership in a Mac User Group (MUG) or a Special Interest Group (SIG). User groups provide a fantastic community-based network in which you're virtually guaranteed to find answers to your Mac-related questions, from people who have overcome the same issues themselves.

SIGs are specialised groups — sometimes, but not always, affiliated with MUGs — dealing with such subjects as digital video, music, education and more, so you're quite likely to find people whose interests match your own. Several of the larger groups listed here also

publish their own newsletters and magazines, which are a great source of additional info even if you can't get to the meetings. Of course, these newsletters and magazines should supplement, rather than replacing, your regular copy of AMW. Ahem.

Most importantly, MUGs and SIGs help you overcome the feeling that you're a lone Mac user in the wilderness. You're not.

Each month from now on, we'll publish a list of upcoming user group events in Buzz. If you're an officeholder in a group that isn't listed here, send an e-mail to matthew.powell@niche.com.au with the subject header "Users and Groups" to ensure that you are listed in future. ● *List compiled by Nicholas Pyers*

## MUG directory

### Australian Capital Territory

#### ACT Apple Users Group Inc.

02 6161 3309

membership@actapple.org.au

www.actapple.org.au

### New South Wales

#### Apple Macintosh Users Groups

02 9387 2069

sydamug@mac.com

homepage.mac.com/sydamug

#### Club Mac

02 9475 0448

secretary@clubmac.org.au

www.clubmac.org.au

#### Coffs Harbour Mac User Group

02 6652 8026

users@yahoo.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/coffs\_mac\_users

#### MacTalk —

#### Newcastle & The Hunter

#### Macintosh User Group

gregpreston@bigfoot.com

groups.yahoo.com/group/MacTalk

#### Sydney Mac Users Group

02 9871 6861

admin@sydney.macusersgroup.org

www.sydney.macusersgroup.org

### Queensland

#### Apple-MAQ/Lions Club for

#### Apple Mac Users of QLD

07 3343 8060

applemag@yahoo.com.au

www.amag.org.au

#### Apple-Q

04 3838 5464

info@apple-q.org.au

www.apple-q.org.au

#### Gold Coast Apple Users Group

0414 267 726

awsemflm@bigpond.net.au

home.worldlink.com.au/apple-serv/GCUsers.html

#### Macintosh Users Group

#### Sunshine Coast

07 5476 2772

help@mugsunco.org.au

www.mugsunco.org.au

#### NQMUG

0438 765 628

pres@nqmug.org

www.nqmug.org

#### Toowoomba Apple & Mac UG

07 4630 5564

stroud@t130.aone.net.au

www.taamug.org.au

### South Australia

#### Final Cut Users Group

08 8410 0979

g.colebatch@mrc.org.au

www.mrc.org.au

#### SA Apple Users Club

08 8396 0133

info@saauc.org.au

www.saauc.org.au

### Victoria

#### AUSOM Incorporated

03 9654 1924

office@ausom.net.au

www.ausom.net.au

#### Central Victorian Macintosh

#### Users Inc

03 5472 3900

www.cvmu.net.au

#### Internet Macintosh User

#### Group Inc

secretary@imug.com.au

www.imug.com.au

### Western Australia

#### Geraldton Macintosh User

#### Group

08 9921 7272

rwhitely@iinet.net.au

gmug.wamug.org.au

#### Western Australia Mac UG

0414 827 915

president@wamug.org.au

www.wamug.org.au



By Dan Warne.

# Off the net

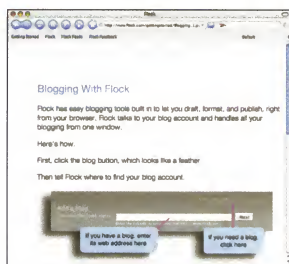
## Latest shareware and free downloads



### Hot Links

[www.ausmac.net](http://www.ausmac.net)

Where you'll find all the software described herein



### ■ Flock 0.4.8 Beta X

A new web browser based on Firefox that has some popular web technologies like blog posting, social bookmarking (through del.icio.us) and Flickr photo sharing. Collectively, these technologies, designed to take advantage of the popularity of posting free-form online content, are starting to

become known as "the participatory web" or simply "web 2.0". Note: this is not the final release.

### ■ SyncTunes 1.3.2 Freeware X (10.3 or later with iTunes 4.9 or later)

Sync an iTunes playlist or library to a memory card. Makes getting iTunes music onto a card-based mobile phone or no-name MP3 player almost as easy as docking an iPod.

### ■ CRM4Mac 2.0 \$US49 Shareware X (10.4 or later)

Put your Address Book, Apple Mail and iCal data on screen in one window, and link them together — view all mail received from one Address Book contact, add contacts to iCal appointments, and so on.

### ■ Galerie 5.2 Freeware X (10.2 or later)

A very easy-to-use program that creates web galleries of your photographs. Integrates with iPhoto, iView Media Pro, Extensis Portfolio.

### ■ Sailing Clicker 3.0 \$US23.95 Shareware X (10.3.9 or later)

Use over 90 models of mobile phone and PDAs as remote controls for your Mac. Clever features like Bluetooth proximity sensing

automatically pauses iTunes music when you walk out of range of your Mac's Bluetooth receiver.

### ■ Slim Battery Monitor 1.3 Freeware X (10.2 or later)

A battery monitor for your menu bar that takes up a lot less space than Apple's standard one. Also has more useful text labels and can hide itself if the battery is fully charged.

### ■ img2icns 0.2 Freeware X (10.3 or later)

Drop an image onto this program and it will spit out an icon that you can paste onto any document or program.

### ■ Firefight 1.0a Freeware X (10.4 or later)

A really spectacular sound-reactive screensaver. Dancing lights like flares shooting into the sky and burning out.

### ■ AsciiMoviePlayerSample 1.0.3 Freeware X (10.3 or later)

Who needs high definition MPEG-4, when you can play any movie in QuickTime using only ASCII characters to represent pixels. "Yes, it's true, now you can enjoy the latest QuickTime movie trailers without leaving the comfort of the command line".

### ■ Poster Print 3.0 \$US17.90 Shareware X (10.3 or later)

If you want to print a large poster, but don't have the budget to get a print bureau to do it for you, this program can take your image and split it up into multiple A4 tiles, which can then be automatically printed — you just supply the sticky tape!

### ■ FolderBrander 1.3.8 \$US12 Shareware X (10.3 or later)

Lets you easily change the colour of a folder or add a text label to its icon so that when you drag it to the dock, it doesn't look absolutely identical to all the other folders. (Helloooo Apple!?)

### ■ Renamer4Mac 2.5.2 Donationware X (10.2 or later)

This is the first app I've ever tried that makes it as easy as doing a "search and replace" in Word to rename a folder full of files.

### ■ MacSudoku 2.2.1 \$US9.99 Shareware X (10.2 or later)

Are you addicted to newspaper Sudoku puzzles? Now you can feed your addiction on your Mac at well.

### ■ Temperature Monitor 3.01 Freeware X (10.2.5 or later)

Display the temperature of all available sensors in your Mac (there are up to 38 in some models) including the safety limits Apple has set. Also check your processor type, processor and bus frequencies, and manufacturing information.

### ■ KeyCamX 2.1 \$US10 Shareware X (Java 1.4 & QuickTime 6)

Use your iSight as a time-elapse security camera, with motion detection (so it only uses up disk space when motion is detected). Can upload the latest image to an iDisk or FTP server.

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The view from the other side of the counter.

By Fleur Doidge.

# Think outside the dodecahedron

**HATE** Christmas. Lots of things suck about Christmas. The only good things intrinsically associated with the festival itself are buying people presents and indulging in gluttony, but even those things have been perverted and co-opted by teams of overpaid, under-imaginative marketroids with far bigger budgets than my own.

The thing that really sucks the big one about Christmas marketing is that we are all made to feel guilty for not spending enough on the people we love. No matter what, the constant barrage of advertising and media coverage conspires to convince one to feel that it is never enough. So most of us look at our bank accounts and say, "this far will it stretch — and no more". We do our best to ignore the pressure to buy, buy, buy.

**Bah, humbug.** That's not the only thing to consider when deciding one's response to Christmas. Even what seems an overtly commercial Christmas can be a good thing, even if we do hold it at the wrong time of year. Not just for tiny tots and teenyboppers, but for big folks too. Particularly if those big folks are retailers or resellers of the consumer variety.

For businesses with a big stake in the consumer market, Christmas can save the entire year. Approaching Christmas last year, resellers expected the holiday period to register a considerable improvement on 2004. Plenty expected Santa's sack to groan with the beeps, whines and clicks of a trillion shiny little gadgets, and they were not disappointed.

Yet sales margins for hardware — including Macintosh computers and iPods — are low and likely to remain so. So what will make the cash registers jingle for Apple resellers?

The broader channel community — especially those computer distributors and dealers that earn most of their income from businesses — has for several years now concentrated increasingly on building products and services around their core hardware sell. As do the big multinational vendors.

For Apple resellers and other consumer-focused retailers in 2006, this writer would be willing to bet on a greater focus on value-added services. We've seen a little of this, in the way of purpose-focused product and service bundles and training, but Apple's support on the ground could certainly be augmented by savvy local resellers far more than we've seen so far.

What else do we want for Christmas? How about more imagination from the Apple reseller community? "Imaginative solution" has become a pretty empty catchphrase when used by the IT sector these days but that is really what is needed.



## Hot Links

[www.xmasresistance.org](http://www.xmasresistance.org)  
Christmas Resistance Movement  
[www.nccg.org/164Art-Nimrod.html](http://www.nccg.org/164Art-Nimrod.html)  
Anti-pagan Christmas web site  
[www.christmascarnivals.com/aboutchristmas](http://www.christmascarnivals.com/aboutchristmas)  
A more "vanilla" view of the West's biggest festival

Resellers should not rely on Apple's massive marketing machine and glossy cachet to make sales. Not all of them do that, of course, but it is very tempting, I think, if one works with a powerful vendor like Apple, to perhaps become a bit too reactive in one's approach to the market. People who think of themselves as relatively powerless tend to err on the passive side.

Apple resellers may need to think up new ways to titillate potential customers, that bring back the magic to Apple product and scare off the ghosts of less successful Christmases past. I'm not going to say resellers should "think outside the box", because that too has been used far too often by corporate staffers at the height of their mediocrity to market themselves in boring, unoriginal ways. Resellers will have to do it for real.

Apple resellers could produce innovative data storage and access product and service bundles around current multimedia trends — many of which include considerable input from Apple. Global research by market analyst IDC has suggested that IT storage and security, considered essential in the business space for years now and a real money-earner for resellers, is about to boom big time in the consumer market.

After all, what's the point of creating all those sexy files, downloading all those movies and learning to play with animation and 3D graphics software on a PowerBook or similar in the comfort of your own home if you can't archive, store, retrieve and protect them as required? I'm willing to bet some smart Apple retailers out there are going to do a lot more of that in 2006. Ask them, the next time you visit the store, what they can offer. You might get some interesting answers.

Value-added offerings are the real secret of success, because it costs lots of money to get new customers if all you can do is sell them something once only. What the smartest resellers and retailers do is focus mainly on keeping their old ones. The best way to do that is supply a much-needed, yet rare or hard-to-get service that provides recurring revenue. Something that keeps the customer coming back for more.

Couple that with Apple hardware and resellers have a real chance against other vendors, some of which have tried but failed to inject some consumer zing into their product ranges.

Things could really get interesting in 2006. Maybe I don't really hate Christmas after all. Ho ho ho. ☺

**Fleur Doidge is a longtime observer of the Mac reseller channel in Australia.**

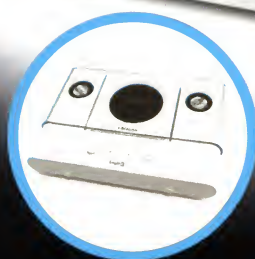




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**AppleCentre Hobart** - [www.wiseit.com.au](http://www.wiseit.com.au) T: 03 6238 1000 **AppleCentre Ivanhoe** - [www.power.com.au](http://www.power.com.au) T: 03 9497 4011

**AppleCentre Norwood** - [www.applecentre-adelaide.com](http://www.applecentre-adelaide.com) T: 08 8333 0922 **AppleCentre Warringah Mall** - [www.maccentric.com.au](http://www.maccentric.com.au) T: 02 9938 9111

**Computers Now** - [www.compnw.com.au](http://www.compnw.com.au) **Chapel St.** T: 03 9827 5011 **Chadstone** T: 03 9568 8655 **Malvern** T: 03 9824 8544

**South Melbourne** T: 03 9684 3600 **Geelong** T: 03 5223 1550 **North Sydney** T: 02 9951 7979

**Frequency Communications** - [www.frequency.com.au](http://www.frequency.com.au) T: 02 9360 0177

**Mac1** - [www.mac1.com.au](http://www.mac1.com.au) **Canberra City** T: 02 6257 0808 **Canberra Fyshwick** T: 02 6280 0808 **Brisbane** T: 07 3852 1666

**Newcastle** T: 02 4965 3500 **Wollongong** T: 02 4228 4999

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\*iPod not included.





# GEAR &

# GADGET



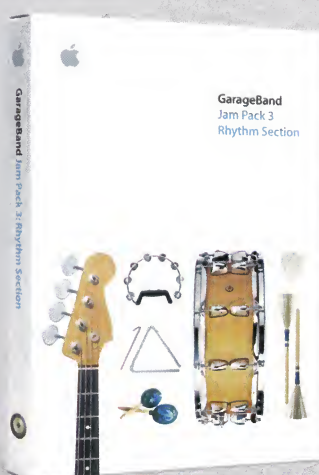
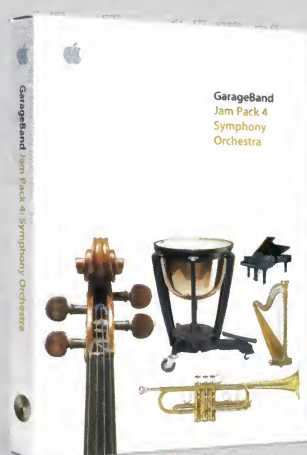
It's that time of year when a Mac fan's mind turns to thoughts of gadgets. So we're here to help, with a selection of our favourite gizmos — from the coolest office gear to the latest laptop bags, from geek-chic T-shirts to iPod accessories. So whether you're shopping for yourself or for someone on your gift list, and whether that person is a nine-to-five office drone, a travelling-all-the-time road warrior, a digital photography or music buff, or just a fellow Mac enthusiast, you'll find the right gear right here.



## ONE-MAN BAND.

You've been using GarageBand for a while now, and your musical creations are starting to sound a little stale. That's because you're using the same loops and instruments as everyone else. Spice up your songs with Apple's Jam Packs. These four GarageBand add-ons — Instruments, Loops, and Effects; Remix Tools; Rhythm Section; and Symphony Orchestra — contain more than 2000 additional loops apiece, and some also offer new instruments, guitar amps, and effects presets. One caution: each of these massive collections consumes several gigs of drive space. — *Jonathan Seff*

**\$149** each from Apple Australia,  
[www.apple.com/au](http://www.apple.com/au)



## PET SOUNDS.

Music and pets are great, but musical pets are even better. Hasbro's i-Dog (top) feeds off your music and responds with ear-wagging dances to match. Watch its lights to determine its mood: if the i-Dog starts to get sad or angry, it's tune time. You can even plug your iPod into the i-Dog, and its built-in speaker lets you listen, too. Zizzle's iZ (bottom), a sort of musical alien, can also act as an iPod speaker, showing various light effects in time to the music and commenting on your choice of tunes.

It also lets you create music using seven built-in beats, seven rhythm variations, and seven lead effects that you mix together by pressing, turning, and flicking iZ's various body parts. — *Dan Frakes*

i-Dog costs **\$60** and iZ costs **\$80** from various toy retailers; [www.hasbro.com](http://www.hasbro.com); [www.zizzle.com](http://www.zizzle.com)





## GOES TO II.

Practice makes perfect, but it also makes noise. M-Audio's JamLab has a USB interface that lets any aspiring Clapton connect a guitar to a Mac via a standard guitar cord and listen in with headphones, so the neighbourhood doesn't have to hear. The included GT Player Express software, which provides guitar amp simulations and cool effects, can play and record audio at 24-bit, 48kHz quality, and the included 160MB of ProSessions drum loops means you'll never have to play alone. — *Jonathan Seff*

**\$159** from Electric Factory,  
03 9480 5988; [www.m-audio.com](http://www.m-audio.com)



## VINYL REVIVER.

If you've finally persuaded dad to get an iPod, he needn't throw away all those platters piled up in the attic. Using the Instant Music, you simply plug into a USB port, and hook up any analogue audio source — LPs, cassettes, even 8-tracks if he's got them. The included Spin Doctor software by Roxio records audio in AIFF format, which can then be burned to CD or imported into iTunes for use on the iPod. All he'll miss is the warps and scratches. — *Matthew JC. Powell*

**\$125** from Conexus, 02 9975 2799;  
[www.adstech.com](http://www.adstech.com)



## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.

Children over eight — as well as a few adults I know — will get a kick out of the QX5 Computer Microscope. Instead of looking through an eyepiece, you hook up the QX5 to your Mac and then view images and control the microscope from there. With 10x, 60x, and 200x magnification, the ability to create time-lapse movies, and basic image-manipulation tools, budding scientists will want to eyeball everything and anything — bugs, dog hair, and maybe those suspicious three-week-old leftovers in the fridge. — *Frith Gowan*

**\$197** from StudyTech, 1300 887 777; [www.studytech.com.au/products](http://www.studytech.com.au/products)



## CAMERA? WHAT CAMERA?

You want to carry your photo gear in a protective bag, but you don't like the look of those boring black cases that scream, "Hey, I'm carrying around really expensive photo equipment!" Crumpler's idiosyncratically-named camera bags are a nice alternative. They provide lots of padding, many pockets for memory cards and other extras, and a removable divider that lets you customise the interior. The bags come in a wide range of sizes. The 4 Million Dollar Home model, for example, comfortably fits an SLR camera body and a lens (\$85). — *Kelly Turner*

**\$50 to \$350** from Crumpler, 03 9372 1204; [www.crumpler.com.au](http://www.crumpler.com.au)



## NO CHORES REQUIRED.

Want to make a teenager happy all year long? An iTunes allowance lets you credit recipients' accounts monthly, so your favourite kids can stay hip to all the latest releases without demanding their own credit cards — or worse, borrowing yours. You simply choose a monthly dollar amount and enter the recipient's Apple account (or create a new one); Apple charges you automatically every month until you cancel. — *Frith Gowan*

**\$30 to \$200** per month; iTunes Music Store, [www.apple.com/au/itunes](http://www.apple.com/au/itunes)



## WELCOME TO THE MONKEY HOUSE.

Zoo Tycoon 2 is that rarest of critters: a strategy game that's great for the whole family. You are the owner of a zoo, and it's up to you to keep your animals happy and healthy by providing appropriate habitats, while also staffing the park and maintaining its facilities well enough to keep paying customers coming back for more. The game features 3D graphics as well as different game modes (including Zoo Guest, Zookeeper, and Photo Safari). — *Peter Cohen*

**\$90** from Try and Byte, 02 9906 5227; [www.bluefang.com](http://www.bluefang.com)





## IPOD KILLED THE RADIO STAR.

In the extremely crowded field of FM transmitters for iPod, two names stand out: iTrip by Griffin and AirPlay by XtremeMac. Both of these popular units have just been updated with stylish new designs to suit the iPod nano. AirPlay 2 is as thin as the iPod nano, and features a large, bright LCD for tuning. It features a mono mode, to reduce interference in cities where the FM band is crowded, and uses the dock connector on the iPod rather than the headphone jack, as the previous version of AirPlay did.

iTrip nano is also as slim as the nano, but uses the nano's own display for tuning. Like the AirPlay it utilises the dock connector, and features three presets so you can find known clear frequencies quickly. Either device would make an ideal add-on for the nano owner in your life. — *Matthew JC. Powell*

**\$100** each from PowerMove, 03 9464 4999; [www.griffin.com](http://www.griffin.com) [www.xtrememac.com](http://www.xtrememac.com)

## DRIVE MY CAR.

The magic question for iPod owners is, how do I play my iPod through my car stereo? Although you'll find several options out there, Harman Kardon may just have the best answer yet with its Drive + Play system. It can connect directly to your car stereo's rear inputs or transmit over an open FM frequency, but the best features are its screen and controller. The backlit five-line display mimics your iPod's interface, and the system's five-button circular controller mirrors the iPod's controls: forward, back, menu, and play/pause buttons flank a large select button in the middle. Instead of scrolling through menus via a Click Wheel, you rotate the knob itself. — *Dan Frakes*

**\$359** from Conexus, 02 9975 2799; [www.harmankardon.com/drive-1/](http://www.harmankardon.com/drive-1/)





## SIT BACK AND ENJOY.

This year a lot of people are going to find PlayStation Portables in their stockings, and many of them will be using it to play movies as supplied on Sony's UMD discs. Of course, when you're watching a full-length movie, it's no fun to have to sit holding your TV set.

The Theatre Experience for PSP comes to the rescue. It's a stand for the PSP with two hi-fi stereo speakers, dual headphone jacks, audio line-in and (the really cool part) a rechargeable Lithium-Ion battery. The battery will extend your PSP's battery life by seven hours, and can even be used to recharge the PSP's battery. Both practical and stylish, everyone who watches movies on the PSP ought to have one. Now if only they'd make one for iPod ... — *Matthew JC. Powell*

**\$155** from Conexus, 02 9975 2799; [www.nyko.com](http://www.nyko.com)



## LIKE TO WATCH?

No Mac-based media centre is complete without a TV tuner, and the EyeTV series of TV tuners and digital recorders has been a hit with Mac fans for years. Now the line has taken the next step: miniaturisation. The EyeTV for DTT receives Digital Terrestrial Television signals and encodes them on-the-fly to MPEG-2 format for viewing and saving on your Mac. Like any EyeTV, you can pause, rewind and fast-forward live programs, as well as recording programs to watch later. All of this, in a device small enough to fit comfortably in your pocket. — *Matthew JC. Powell*

**\$300** from PowerMove, 03 9464 4999; [www.elgato.com](http://www.elgato.com)



## SITTIN' IN THE BAY OF THE DOCK.

With music, photos and now even video, the iPod is becoming more and more the hub of your digital lifestyle — at least when you're on the road. But what about when you walk through the door at home? That's where the HomeDock, by Deluxe Lifestyle Outfitters, comes in. Pop your iPod into the HomeDock and straight away, it's connected to your stereo and TV and you control it with the included remote control. Couldn't be simpler. It's suitable for all dockable iPods, including the nano and the 5G iPod (with video) and includes all the required cables.

— *Matthew JC. Powell*

**\$180** from PowerMove, 03 9464 4999; [www.dlo.com](http://www.dlo.com)





## GEEK OUT YOUR BABY.

Kids born today are going to know more about technology by the time they're ten than many of us adults do now. If you want to give your favourite infant a head start in the tech world, wrap him or her up in one of these cute onesies or T-shirts. The Newbie onesie and Geek in Training T-shirt (sizes 6 months to 4T) boldly proclaim a baby's technological proclivities, while the iPod My Baby onesie (sizes 6 to 18 months) is a bit more ambiguous. Sure, iPods are known for their elegant interfaces. Babies? Not so much. — Frith Gowan

Newbie onesie and Geek in Training T-shirt, **\$US13**; Available online from ThinkGeek, [www.thinkgeek.com](http://www.thinkgeek.com); iPod My Baby onesie, **\$US16**; Available online from iPodMyBaby, [www.ipodmybaby.com](http://www.ipodmybaby.com)



## PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT.

When it comes to delivering fast, intense 3D graphics, this card is as good as it gets for Mac gamers right now. Designed specifically for the Power Mac G5, the ATI Radeon X800 XT Mac Edition features one dual-link DVI connector and an ADC connector, so you can drive a 30-inch Apple Cinema HD Display and an older 23-inch Cinema HD Display side by side. — *Peter Cohen*

**\$979** from Palaeographics 1800 289 622; [www.ati.com](http://www.ati.com)

## SAVE YOUR HANDS.

Anyone concerned about ergonomics — and that should be anyone who uses a computer — will want to know about Contour Design's RollerMouse: it's a keyboard tray with its own built-in, programmable mouse-replacing roller bar. Roll that bar, and your cursor moves up and down. Slide it side to side, and your cursor does likewise. It makes the side-ways mouse-grab a thing of the past, keeps your hands on the keyboard where they belong, and is easier to use than a trackpad. — *Dan Miller*



**\$359** from MacSense, 02 9798 3288; [www.contourdesign.com](http://www.contourdesign.com)





### THE MAC ATE MY BRAIN.

Some Bungie alums founded Wideload, and that heritage shows in the company's freshman effort, *Stubbs the Zombie in Rebel Without a Pulse*. You take control of a shambling zombie who can rip off his own arm to use as a remote-control weapon; eating people's brains reanimates them as part of your own zombie horde. Violent and bloody, the game is also rife with dark humour (think *Shaun of the Dead*, not *Dawn of the Dead*). Parents: check out the preview trailers before you stick this one in a youngster's stocking. — *Peter Cohen*

**\$60** from Pica Australia 03 9388 9588; [www.stubbsthezombie.com](http://www.stubbsthezombie.com)

### BAG IT.

For toting a laptop around all day, you can't beat a backpack. STM's Sports model is one of the best. It has the usual padded laptop compartment, as well as pouches for your iPod, phone, and more. Ergonomic shoulder straps and ventilated back padding make it comfortable, even with heavy loads.

— *Dan Frakes*

**\$130** from STM, 02 8338 0222  
[www.stmbags.com](http://www.stmbags.com)





# modulo

## systems

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photo by Philip Greenwood





## Hear me blog

IN AMW 11.2005, we looked at the full spectrum of blogging services, including simpler ones where your blog is hosted on their server, and more comprehensive ones that run on your own server and can be extended with plugins for features like photo galleries, calendars and more.

However, to get this extra flexibility you have to find your own web host which will allow the scripts that make up blog packages to be installed and run on your web space.

For the uninitiated, questions crop up like: should I pick a Windows or Linux webserver? PHP or ASP scripting? How much storage space is enough (or too much, considering each step up in storage costs more money)? How much traffic does an average blog use?

You shouldn't have to pay a lot to get a hosting plan suitable for blogging — \$5 to \$10 a month (less if you pay upfront annually). For that, you should look for Australian-based telephone/e-mail/online chat tech support and guaranteed uptime of at least 99 percent.

As a guide, for an average blog, you should look for:

- Linux hosting, with PHP scripting supported (all the popular blogging packages use PHP because it is free and open source, and the Fantastico control panel, discussed below, only runs on Linux).
- 50 to 100MB web space is adequate for a straightforward blog with pictures that are scaled to web resolution. If you want higher resolution photo galleries, look for a service that offers at least 300MB.
- 500MB/mth of traffic is adequate for a small personal blog. If you think your blog is likely to attract a lot of traffic, or you plan to offer any downloads directly from your blog try to get at least 1 or 2GB of monthly data transfer.
- Do not, under any circumstances, sign up for a hosting provider that charges an excess usage fee for storage or traffic if you exceed your monthly limit. Go for one that simply suspends your account until the month rolls over.

**Blog shopping.** In recent years, a great innovation in web hosting is all-in-one browser-based control panels which allow blogging packages (and other packages such as shopping carts, etc) to be installed onto your web space with just a few mouse clicks, so you don't have to get involved in unpleasant manual editing of configuration files and so on.

A good web-based control panel offered by many web hosting companies now is Fantastico. With this, you can install the popular WordPress blogging package on your web space in a couple of minutes, just by providing some basic details like an administrator login and password of your choice.



### Hot Links

[www.alternative.net.au](http://www.alternative.net.au)  
[www.studiocoast.com.au](http://www.studiocoast.com.au)  
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[www.livejournal.com](http://www.livejournal.com)  
[www.whitepage.com.au](http://www.whitepage.com.au)  
 Blogging services

A local hosting company that has become popular with bloggers is [alternative.net.au](http://alternative.net.au). It offers free hosting for personal and non-profit web sites, and offers the Fantastico control panel. Unlike the free hosting services of the '90s, there are no annoying banner ads to contend with. You get 100MB of storage, the option to use your own domain name, and three e-mail accounts.

The only caveat is that because it is free, [alternative.net.au](http://alternative.net.au) doesn't offer any guarantees. It does guarantee the uptime of its paid hosting packages, which start at \$5.95/mth (50MB storage, 500MB transfer, 10 e-mails).

[Studiocoast.com.au](http://Studiocoast.com.au) offers a \$5/mth deal with 50MB storage space, 1GB of traffic, Webalizer stats (comprehensive statistics on your visitor traffic), five e-mail accounts and installation of either Wordpress or MoveableType included. Mac users are fully supported.

[Xhost.com.au](http://Xhost.com.au) offers a range of plans, hosted on Australian servers, starting from \$5/mth, including the Fantastico control panel. For \$5/mth you get 50MB storage, 1GB transfer, and 10 e-mail addresses. For \$10/mth that rises to 500MB storage, 5GB transfer and unlimited e-mail addresses.

It's worth mentioning that, unlike most things in the Mac world these days, it doesn't matter if you're still running Mac OS 9. All the hard work is done on the web server, and configuration and posting of blog entries is done through a web browser, like Internet Explorer for Mac OS 9.



**Packaged blog services.** If all you want to do is get blogging straight away with no learning curve at all, you might still prefer one of the services we talked about last month that offers blogging via web forms with no configuration necessary. Two we neglected to mention last month are:

■ [LiveJournal.com](http://LiveJournal.com), a long-established US-based blogging service. It is free to join, but if you want storage space for your photos and the ability to customise the look of your blog fully, you have to pay \$US25 a year. Nonetheless, its ease of use keeps it extremely popular — at the time of writing, it was receiving over 13,000 postings an hour.

■ [Whitepage.com.au](http://Whitepage.com.au), which claims to be the only dedicated blogging service for Australians. It only launched in July this year, and its feature-set is very basic (with annoying foibles like US-format date stamps on postings, and limited design templates) but it does offer browser-based uploading of pictures and it works on Safari. 🐼

Dan Warne is passionate about the state of broadband in Australia.



# New Products from Try & Byte

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Includes multiple tips for use with Powerbook, iBook, iPod and major-brand Windows notebooks.



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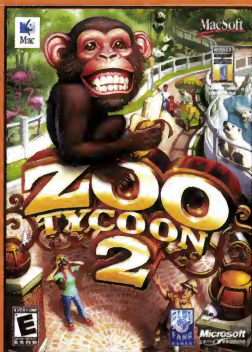
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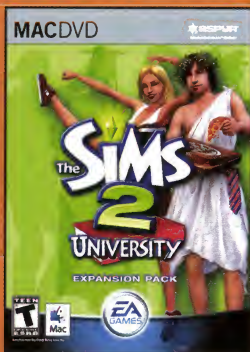
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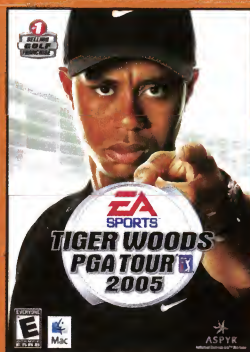
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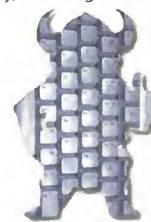


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Adobe® After Effects® Pro	P.O.A	Adobe® Pagemaker OS9 Mac/Win	\$165	Filemaker® Pro 8	\$286	MasterJuggler Pro	\$ 89
Adobe® After Effects® Standard	P.O.A	Adobe® Premier	\$349	Filemaker® Pro 8 Advanced	\$499	Microsoft® Office 2004 Standard	\$399
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Adobe® Creative Suite 2 Pr from CS1	\$899	Adobe® Type Manager Del OS9 Mac	\$119	Macromedia® Director (from 8.5+)	\$599	Stuffit Deluxe	\$ 59
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12.2005

# The Hub



YOUR DIGITAL LIFESTYLE

## YEEHAW!

**BIGGEST DIGITAL CAMERA ROUNDUP IN THE WEST**



**FINALLY THE iTunes MUSIC STORE IN AUSTRALIA**

**ALSO: WHAT TO PACK FOR A TECH HOLIDAY | WIRELESS CAMERAS DEBUT**



By Seamus Byrne



## Hot Links

www.canon.com.au  
 www.hitachi.com.au  
 www.jvc-australia.com  
 www.panasonic.com.au  
 www.samsung.com.au  
 www.sony.com.au

Where to go for more info

## A new view for your summer

**W**HAT better time than the holiday season to treat yourself to a new camera? It's the most fundamental tool in any video production kit and, after a stellar year in the development of camera technology, this summer offers many opportunities to upgrade your gear with so many great features now available at even entry-level price categories.

I've gathered 21 of the best cameras in the market from entry level to around \$10k — I've listed RRP's, but shop around and you'll often find the camera you're looking for at a great discount.

**Format wars.** Before you go camera shopping, it's important to understand some of the fundamentals of the choice before you. All camcorders are not built alike, and your choice of format can have a dramatic effect on the price you pay and the results you can expect.

**miniDV.** The number one format in play today and it's not going anywhere anytime soon. For video producers, this is still the number one option in the pack, with excellent archival quality performance featuring uncompressed DV capture and a well priced tape media. When you store your tapes correctly, you can expect your raw footage and any masters you return to tape to last for a very long time.

miniDV is now in use for both DV and HDV and its versatility shines, with with one model even offering DVCAM quality recording. If you're operating multiple cameras, going with miniDV will also help keep media costs down and compatibility high.

**HDD/Solid State.** In the long term, disc and flash memory formats are the likely challenger to the miniDV throne. At the high end, cameras using these formats are delivering unmatched performance and versatility, covering most video formats you

could desire in a master, coupled with the fastest data transfer from camera to edit suite you can find.

Hard disc solutions are very attractive to general video users, but to video producers, native recording to MPEG2 is just not an optimal scenario with no direct support for editing in the format. MPEG4 compression is better, according to some, but again this doesn't compare to uncompressed DV for anyone keen on the best possible raw master footage. If you're unintimidated by the need for data conversion tools — effectively to rip your creations from MPEG2 to something more edit-friendly — and the DVD quality raw format suits your needs, then have a close look at these offerings because this may already be what you're looking for.

As capacity climbs, record format options will appear that remove compression issues and deliver tapeless products that will be very difficult to leave on the shelf.

**DVD.** It's been a very popular format for home users in the past few years, but would any self-respecting video producer go down this path? This is basically the 21st century update of classic VHS tape cameras, with better quality and the added bonus of in-camera editing features to let mum and dad users instantly produce something the family will enjoy. However, regardless of what Hitachi marketing brochures might say, this is not the right format for images "that will not deteriorate". This is still DVD, an inherently poor archive medium that is again reliant on MPEG2. For general purposes, this is certainly an attractive format, but far from future-proof. It just doesn't pass muster for a producer keen to create video that ticks all the boxes on a master quality checklist.

For the undeterred, I have included some DVD cameras in the mix below so you can get a sense of what this format has up its sleeve.

**Sub-\$2000.** Entry level is a very different concept to what it once was. There are many details missing from these cameras, but the bells and whistles once reserved for high-end cameras are now becoming common in the low-end of the market. You could be forgiven for thinking some of these prices are typos, the features are that good.



**Canon MV800i miniDV DV \$699.** The MV800i features Canon's true 16:9 shooting, 20x zoom, a 2.4-inch

colour screen and a 2 lux Night Mode. Software image stabilising and eight shooting modes mean you can expect pretty good results for most needs. The biggest draw has to be the inclusion of analogue line in/out, allowing you to use the camera as a conversion box to bring old videos into the digital era. It's found in many higher-end cameras too, but when you can easily pay this same price for a converter, why not also score a basic camera that doesn't cut any of the important corners?



**Sony DCRHC21 miniDV DV \$749.** Many of the essentials are here — Steadyshot, NightShot, 20x zoom, widescreen mode.

The highlight here is the capacity for controls through the touch screen 2.5-inch LCD, plus record functions on the LCD frame, making things simple for entry level users. This even includes spot metering and spot focus through a screen touch. Also features the same analogue in/out feature as found in the Canon.



### Digital IXUS 55

(83185)

5.0 Megapixel  
3x optical zoom lens  
2.5 inch LCD screen

Canon

RRP \$629

SAVE \$130

our price

**\$499**

### MV800i

(82096)

20x optical zoom lens  
stereo sound  
2.4 inch LCD screen

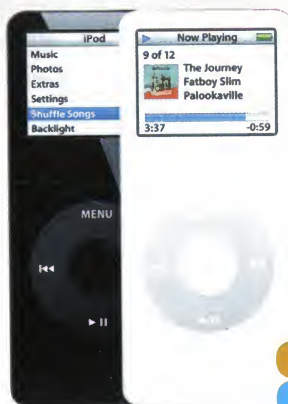
Canon

RRP \$699

SAVE \$120

our price

**\$579**



view photos

plays music



plays video

view photos

plays music

### iPod shuffle

Time to mix things up. Meet iPod shuffle, the unpredictable new iPod. What will it play next? Can it read your mind? Can it read your moods? Load it up. Put it on. See where it takes you. Choose from pocket-size 512MB or 1GB models starting at \$149 and surprise yourself.

**iPod shuffle 512 MB \$149**

up to 120 songs (M9724ZP/A)

**iPod shuffle 1GB \$199**

up to 240 songs (M9725ZP/A)

### iPod nano

Take everything you love about iPod and shrink it. Now shrink it again. With 2GB (500 songs) and 4GB (1,000 songs) models starting at \$299, the pencil-thin iPod nano packs the entire iPod experience into an impossibly small design. So small, it will take your music places you never dreamed of.

**iPod nano 2GB \$299**

up to 500 songs (W MA004X/A, B MA099X/A)

**iPod nano 4GB \$359**

up to 1,000 songs (W MA005X/A, B MA107X/A)

### iPod

Witness the evolution of the revolution. First it played songs. Then photos. Then podcasts. Now iPod plays video, changing the way you experience your music and more. Again. In lighter, thinner 30GB and 60GB models starting at \$449, the new iPod is music to your eyes.

**iPod 30GB \$449**

up to 7,500 songs (W MA002X/A, B MA146X/A)

**iPod 60GB \$598**

up to 15,000 songs (W MA003X/A, B MA147X/A)



Microsoft



macromedia

Canon

SENNHEISER

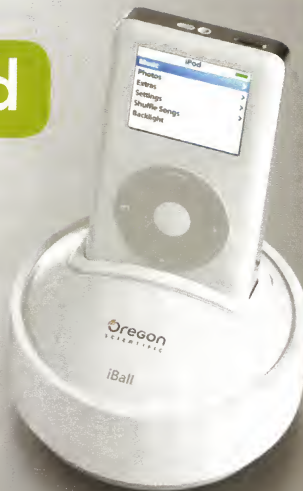
stm



AppleCentre



# Unwire your iPod



## iBall

Wireless Sound That Never Blinks

**\$429** (83192)

### Features:

- Advanced 2.4 GHz, adaptive frequency hopping spread spectrum (FHSS) wireless technology delivers crystal clear digital stereo audio up to 100 feet
- Three-speaker array system with ported bass cavity provides a smooth and powerful listening experience
- Adjustable treble and bass
- Built-in remote control enables iPod operation wirelessly – directly from the iBall
- Easy to read LCD display illuminates the time, volume, bass, treble, wireless signal strength, input selection, play/pause status and battery power
- Runs six to eight hours on rechargeable batteries or from AC adaptor, both included
- Charges iPod and synchronizes with iTunes through standard 30-pin connection to USB or Firewire port connections for your Mac/ PC
- Compatible with all iPods (seven iPod adaptors included)
- Auxiliary stereo line-in mini-plug for use with one additional audio source
- S-video and A/V stereo line-out mini-plug for listening and viewing through other A/V components (i.e. stereo, TV)



#### Apple iPod Camera Connector

The iPod Camera Connector provides a fast, easy way to transfer images from your digital camera to your iPod Photo. (M9861G/A) For iPod photo only

**\$48**



#### iPod Photo AV Cable

Provides composite video and audio output for viewing photo slideshows with music on a TV. This cable is made specifically for iPod photo (M9765G/A)

**\$29**



#### Airplay 2

Plug AirPlay2 into any Dock Connector iPod, tune to the same frequency as your FM radio, and push play to hear your tunes through your stereo. Available in black (83465) or white (83464).

**\$99.95**



#### Universal Dock

Any model of iPod with a dock connector can fit perfectly into a single Universal Dock through the use of interchangeable inserts called Dock Adapters (\$13 pack of 3) (MA045G/A)

**\$59**



#### iPod remote

Used in conjunction with the universal dock, play, pause, control volume and skip forward and back between songs from across the room. (MA128G/A)

**\$48**



#### iPod nano lanyard

Its ingenious built-in earbuds conquer clutter by integrating the audio signal with the lanyard itself. (MA093G/A)

**\$59**



#### STM cocoon

Includes a skin that has been custom fit to your iPod and a hard outer shell that completely encloses your iPod. Available for iPod mini, nano, G4 & G5.

**\$50**



#### iTrip dock

One of iTrip's innovative new features is selectable LX or DX modes of broadcasting, which allow you to adjust for the absolute best possible audio under real-world conditions. (83680)

**\$89**



#### iCleaner

iCleaner Scratch Remover is a non abrasive alcohol free cleaner that removes scratches from the white/black & clear plastic of your iPod or your iBook. (83361)

**\$39.95**



#### incase leather folio for nano

Beautifully crafted stylish leather folio with screen protector & belt clip protects your nano with style. Perfect for the fashion conscious. (83682)

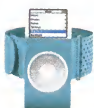
**\$45**



#### Bang & Olufsen A8 Earphones

With conventional earphones much of the sound never makes it into the ear. A8 Earphones stop this kind of leakage with a fit that can be adjusted to the contours and curves of the individual ear. (83070)

**\$219**



#### Apple nano armband

This flexible, lightweight armband provides easy access to iPod nano controls. Available in 5 colours

**\$48**



#### incase Journal for iPod

Access to all iPod controls, slots for cards and cash, a pouch for earbud headphones and a suede interior with custom print. Available in 3 designs (83683)

**\$109.95**



#### Kensington Digital FM

The all-in-one Digital FM Transmitter/ Auto Charger plays and charges your iPod using your car's FM radio and DC power source. (83024)

**\$109.95**



#### Griffin SmartDeck

SmartDeck allows you to control your iPod using the built-in controls of your cassette player (80521)

**\$39**



## MX550

The powerful MX 550 earphones feature Sennheiser's innovative "Basswind" system, a symmetrical cable and an ultra-lightweight volume control. (82612)

**\$44.95**



## HD202

The HD 202 closed, dynamic hi-fi stereo headphones are the ideal partner for DJs and powerful modern music, providing good insulation against ambient noise and a vivid, crisp bass response. The rugged lightweight headphones have a secure fit and can be used for both mobile sources and home (mini) hi-fi systems. When out and about, a convenient cord take-up lets you adjust the headphone cable to the required length. (82607)

**\$69.95**



## PMX 60

The open, dynamic PMX 60 neckband headphones are the ideal choice for all portable audio sources. Their balanced sound image easily outdoes other mini headphones. (83371)

**\$79.95**



## PX 200

The closed, dynamic, supra-aural PX 200 mini headphones are an ideal choice for mobile audio sources. Their excellent isolation lets you enjoy music without being disturbed or disturbing others. Folded and packed into their rugged transport case, these headphones will accompany you anywhere. (82242)

**\$129.95**



## PC 145 USB

Gives you the flexibility of a USB-compatible headset and still fits under your lucky hat. Take it anywhere you go for ultimate sound and total convenience without changing the laid-back look you've worked so hard to achieve. (82727)

**\$189.95**



## PXC 150

The PXC 150 are closed supra-aural mini headphones with NoiseGard™ active noise compensation. Passive and active noise reduction enable you to enjoy music even in noisy environments. With its convenient draw string pouch, the PXC 150 is the ideal travel companion. (83370)

**\$199.95**



## HD 25 SP

The HD 25 SP are closed dynamic headphones for monitoring, recording and outdoor applications. They are a lower-cost alternative to the HD 25, featuring a simpler headband and a slightly different capsule design. (82387)

**\$299.95**



## PXC 300

The ideal travel companion: The foldable PXC 300 headphones with NoiseGard™ Advance active noise cancelling technology let you enjoy music even in noisy environments. They reduce unwanted noise by up to 80% and the optimised circuit technology ensures reduced susceptibility to mobile phone interference. The PXC 300 is supplied complete with a protective soft case, batteries and aircraft audio adaptors. (82729)

**\$399.95**



## HD 25-1

The closed-back HD 25s are purpose-designed, professional monitoring headphones offering high attenuation of background noise. Capable of handling very high sound pressure levels and of extremely robust construction, these headphones perform exceptionally well in high-noise environments, e.g. ENG, sound reinforcement, studio monitoring and audio equipment testing. The capsule is rotatable for one-ear listening. Ideal monitoring headphones for cameramen and DJs. (82241)

**\$599.95**



### eSkin Protective Skin for iPod nano

Allows wearing with access to earphone, lanyard included, covered click wheel to ensure maximum protection. Choose from Clear, Blue, Pink or Black.

**\$19.95**



### eSkin Protective Skin for video iPod

Silicon construction provides perfect protection from scratches & bumps

**\$29.95**



### ePlugs - Soft In-Earphones with Volume Control & Pouch

Wide dynamic range of sound, soft buds reduce outer noise, in-line volume control for easy adjustment. Includes carry pouch and spare set of soft buds. (83271)

**\$39.95**



### eWire Headphone Splitter Cable with Gold Connectors

Mini plug splitter for iPod, allows the iPod to be shared by two headphones (83635)

**\$9.95**



### eLink - iPod Docking, Syncing & Charging Cable

Simple and easy solution for charging, syncing or docking any iPod with dock connector. Transfer data via FireWire 400 or USB 2.0 (80859)

**\$35**



### eWrap Deluxe Leather Wrap with Belt Clip for iPod nano

Leather with inner felt lining and leather covered belt clip, inbuilt screen protector, open access to ports and click wheel. Available in Pink, Black or White

**\$49.95**



### eCharger - iPod Car Charger

In-built replaceable safety fuse and charging LED indicator light. Available for iPods with dock connectors or the shuffle. (80176)

**\$39**



### eShield Protective Film Covers for iPod nano

Anti-glare, UV protected set of film to covers your entire iPod including the click wheel. Includes 2 x sets. (83305)

**\$19.95**



### eWire iPod to 2x RCA Cable with Gold Connectors

Connect any iPod to home stereo RCA inputs (83636)

**\$19.95**

## Computers Now Christmas Special

Buy the eCruise & eWave together  
**for just \$129.95**

SAVE \$19.95  
(83672)



### eCruise - Car charging cradle with line out for iPod nano

Charges iPod nano. Fully Adjustable Arm. 3.5mm Audio Line Out. Compatible with eWave FM. Perfect Fitting Cradle. Power LED Indicator. Charger Locking Sleeve. Replaceable Safety Fuse. 83670

**\$69.95**

### eWave - FM transmitter with LCD for any iPod with dock connector

Large Backlit LCD Display. 4 Programmable Memories. Selectable LX/DX Modes. International Frequency Modes. Compatible with eCruise Cradles. Pass-Through Dock Connectors. Allows iPod to be Charged 83671

**\$79.95**



# iPod digital music systems



## Altec Lansing inMotion 7

Ushering in a whole new era of out-loud audio for iPod, the inMotion iM7 delivers full-bodied sound that rivals traditional home stereo systems. A wireless remote provides across-the-room command of both the iM7 and iPod, allowing perfect adjustment of your music. (83172)

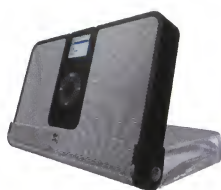
**\$449**



## Logitech MM50

The rechargeable Li-ion batteries last up to 10 hours, and you can charge both the speaker system and iPod battery simultaneously. Includes remote. (83163)

**\$229**



## XtremeMac Microblast

Simply slide your iPod nano into MicroBlast's dock and crank up its four great-sounding, amplified stereo speakers. It's powered by four AA batteries or an included AC adapter that enables you to play and charge your iPod nano at the same time. (83679)

**\$199.95**



## Bose SoundDock

With its crisp, full sound and compact design, the SoundDock system could become the ideal partner for your iPod. Includes remote. (79667)

**\$499**



## Logic 3 iStation

Docking & Sound, the i-Station offers a complete solution to listen, recharge, and synchronise your iPod, iPod photo, iPod mini or iPod nano with a dock connector. It produces hi-fi quality sound from the combination of a sub-woofer, dynamic tweeter speakers and 3D surround sound processor. (81820)

**\$149**

## FREE Training with the purchase of any computer!

Ever wanted to know more about your Mac and unleash the full power of OSX Tiger? Well here's how! Anyone who purchases any Apple Mac through any Computers Now AppleCentre can attend our free introductory training sessions held on Tuesdays at our Malvern AppleCentre.

Held in small groups free of distractions, our training sessions help keep you on top of your digital lifestyle. Learn new tips and tricks from our experts who live and breath Mac OSX Tiger, but remember - bookings are essential.

**What :** Free introductory customer training  
**When :** Tuesdays 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
**Where :** Malvern AppleCentre, 1465 Malvern Road  
**Book now:** [training@compnw.com.au](mailto:training@compnw.com.au) or call 9824 8544

iMovie	create stunning digital movies
iDVD	burn movies and photos to DVD
iPhoto	import, save, store, share & print your photo library
iTunes & iTMS	mix up your playlists &w manage your MP3's
Garageband	your own digital studio for loops, beats & more
Mail & Address Book	get ontop of your inbox
Safari	web browsing at it's best
.Mac	the perfect internet companion



# Mac Mini

Mini price. Max value.

Starting at \$799

Live the digital life in stylish simplicity. Just 16.51 cm square and 5 cm tall, Mac mini provides what you need to have more fun with your music, photos and movies — right out of the box. Mac mini now boasts 512MB memory as well as models with built-in wireless and SuperDrive.

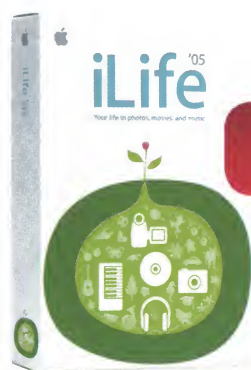


**FREE training!**  
See page 4

Share your PC keyboard, mouse & display without having to swap cables with a Belkin KVM switch \$89 (81813)

	1.25GHz Mac mini \$799 or \$9 p/wk* (M9686X/B)	1.42 GHz Mac mini \$949 or \$ 10 p/wk* (M9687X/B)	SuperDrive Mac mini \$1,099 or \$12 p/wk* (M9971X/B)
Processor:	1.25GHz G4	1.42GHz G4	1.42GHz G5
RAM:	512MB (up to 1GB)	512MB (up to 1GB)	512MB (up to 1GB)
Hard Drive:	40GB; 4200rpm	80GB; 4200rpm	80GB; 4200rpm
Graphics:	32MB dedicated	32MB dedicated	32MB dedicated
Optical drive:	Combo Drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)	Combo Drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)	SuperDrive (DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Bluetooth:	optional	built in	built in
Wireless:	optional (includes dial-up modem)	built in Wi-Fi 802.11g	built in Wi-Fi 802.11g

RAM upgrade	512MB (76727)	\$99	1GB (79332)	\$219	Free installation, SAVE \$33
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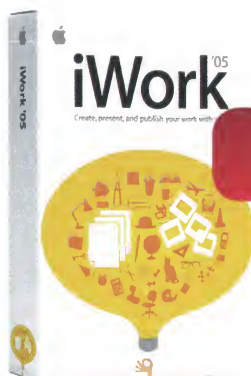
**\$119**

## iLife '05

Welcome to the world of iLife - Digital music, photography, movies and DVD creation. Take photos? Shoot video? Make or listen to music? Even if you've never considered yourself a creative person, iLife '05 - a suite of tightly integrated applications that places no limit on your talent or creativity - makes it easy and fun to learn new skills.

**iLife includes:** iPhoto 5, iMovie HD, iDVD 5, GarageBand 2, iTunes.

(M9779Z/A)



**\$119**

## iWork '05

**Got ideas?** iWork '05 brings them to life with Keynote 2 - offering cinema-quality presentations for everyone - and Pages - a word processor with an incredible sense of style.

**Pages:** Create, present and publish your work in style.

**Keynote:** Create stunning slideshows easily.

(M9610Z/A)



**\$139.95**

## .Mac

**.Mac will revolutionize the way you use the internet.** .Mac membership provides you with innovative software and services including an ad-free email account, home page creation tools with 1GB on line storage, easy-to-use backup software and more. And now .Mac unlocks powerful features in Mac OS X v10.4 Tiger such as effortless syncing of the most important data on all your Macs. Choose a one-year individual membership or a cost-effective Family Pack for up to five people. (MA175Z/A)

**Family Pack - \$249.95** (MA176Z/A)

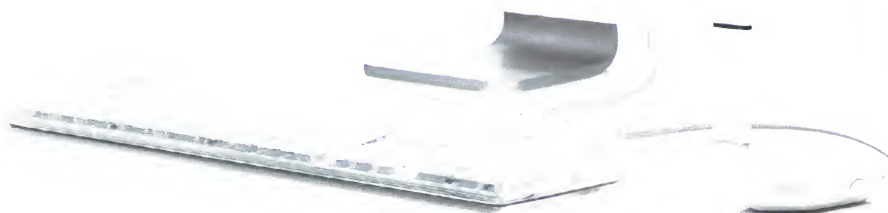


# iMac G5

Now showing.

Music Photos Video, from your sofa.

What if you could command an entire world of music, photos, movies and DVDs — all from your sofa? Now you can share the good life with friends and family on a 17- or 20-inch new iMac G5 featuring Front Row software and Apple Remote.



Now with remote

**17" iMac**  
**\$1,999 or \$21 p/wk\***  
 (MA063Z/A)

<b>Processor:</b>	1.9GHz G5
<b>RAM:</b>	512MB (up to 2.5GB)
<b>Hard Drive:</b>	160GB; 7200rpm
<b>Graphics:</b>	128MB dedicated
<b>Optical drive:</b>	8x Dual Layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
<b>Bluetooth:</b>	built in 2.0 +EDR
<b>Wireless:</b>	built in Wi-Fi 802.11g
<b>iSight camera:</b>	built in

**20" iMac**  
**\$2,649 or \$28 p/wk\***  
 (MA064Z/A)

<b>Processor:</b>	2.1GHz G5
<b>RAM:</b>	512MB (up to 2.5GB)
<b>Hard Drive:</b>	250GB; 7200rpm
<b>Graphics:</b>	128MB dedicated
<b>Optical drive:</b>	8x Dual Layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
<b>Bluetooth:</b>	built in 2.0 +EDR
<b>Wireless:</b>	built in Wi-Fi 802.11g
<b>iSight camera:</b>	built in

**FREE training!**  
 See page 4

## RAM upgrade option

<b>512MB (83496)</b>	<b>\$99</b>
<b>1GB (83497)</b>	<b>\$179</b>
<b>2GB (83498)</b>	<b>\$749</b>

Free installation, SAVE \$33

## Hard Drive upgrade

<b>250GB (83667)</b>	<b>\$99</b>
<b>500GB (83669)</b>	<b>\$499</b>

## Front Row

You've got the best seat in the house. The full-screen Front Row media experience — with its intuitive menus, large text and brilliant graphics — lets you browse the music, photos and videos on your iMac as easily as you browse music on your iPod using the included remote control.

### Music

Control the mood of the room with instant access to iTunes music and playlists.

### Photos

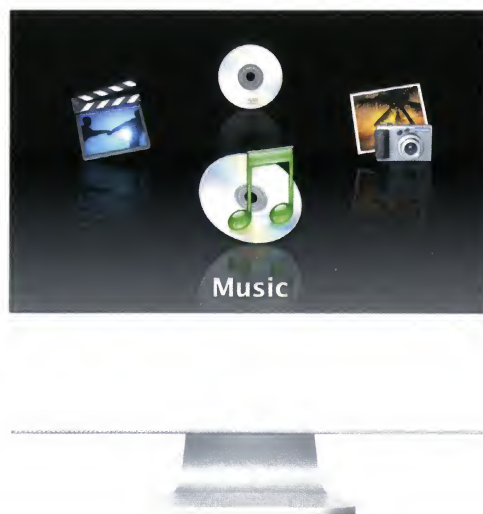
View slideshows from your iPhoto library, complete with transitions and music.

### Videos

Watch home movies, music videos and more. Hit play and pass the popcorn.

### DVD

Dazzle your friends with DVD's on the amazing full-screen display.



# The iBook G4

Live wirelessly for less with Airport Extreme on all models.

Surf the Web, chat with friends, do homework, play games, even burn DVDs and CDs to create your own video or musical masterpiece. In your favourite café. At 2 a.m. With built-in wireless capability and 512MB of memory standard, the iBook G4 delivers today's digital lifestyle to your backpack



## iBook 12" \$1,599 or \$17 p/wk\* (M9846X/A)

Processor:	1.33GHz G4
RAM:	512MB (up to 1.5GB max)
Hard Drive:	40GB; 4200rpm
Graphics:	32MB dedicated
Display:	12.1" TFT (1024x768)
Optical drive:	Combo Drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
Bluetooth:	built in 2.0 +EDR
Wireless:	built in 802.11g
Weight:	only 2.2kg
Battery life:	up to 6 hrs

## iBook 14" \$2,049 or \$22 p/wk\* (M9848X/A)

Processor:	1.42GHz G4
RAM:	512MB (up to 1.5GB max)
Hard Drive:	60GB; 4200rpm
Graphics:	32MB dedicated
Display:	14.1" TFT (1024x768)
Optical drive:	8x SuperDrive (DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Bluetooth:	built in 2.0 +EDR
Wireless:	built in 802.11g
Weight:	only 2.7kg
Battery life:	up to 6 hrs

**FREE training!**  
See page 4

### RAM upgrade option

512MB (72993)	\$125
1GB (79295)	\$296

Free installation, SAVE \$33

### Hard Drive upgrade

100GB (83662)	\$299
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## 3 Years Phone Support! 3 Years Warranty! 3 Years peace of mind!

3 years premium phone support  
International warranty for portables  
On site warranty for desktops  
(within 80km of service centre)

**SAVE**

### AppleCare Protection Plan Long Term Peace of Mind

Extends the complimentary coverage. Apple-certified repairs. Expert telephone assistance. Comprehensive service & Support. The cheapest service part you'll ever buy. 2 years extra coverage.



M8852FE/B	APP for iBook	<del>\$419</del>	\$325
M8851FE/B	APP for iMac/eMac	<del>\$269</del>	\$219
M9859FE/A	APP for Mac Mini	<del>\$229</del>	\$179
M8853FE/B	APP for PowerBook	<del>\$579</del>	\$450
M8850FE/B	APP for PowerMac	<del>\$419</del>	\$325
M9404FE/B	APP for iPod	<del>\$99</del>	\$75



# PowerBook

Choose your creative powerhouse.

Crisp new displays that expand your view. Longer battery life to fuel your work (or play) as you fly cross-country. A DVD-burning SuperDrive on every system. The PowerBook G4 packs loads of pro features in a slim enclosure with a slim new price.



**FREE training!**  
See page 4

## PowerBook 12" \$2,499 or \$26 p/wk\*

(M9691X/A)

Processor:	1.5GHz G4
RAM:	512MB (up to 1.25GB max)
Hard Drive:	80GB; 5400rpm
Graphics:	64MB dedicated
Display:	12.1" TFT (1024x768)
Optical drive:	8x SuperDrive (DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Bluetooth:	Built in BT 2.0 +EDR
Wireless:	Built in Wi-Fi 802.11g
Weight:	only 2.1kg
Battery life:	up to 5.0 hrs

## PowerBook 15" \$3,199 or \$33 p/wk\*

(M9969X/A)

Processor:	1.67GHz G4
RAM:	512MB (up to 2GB max)
Hard Drive:	80GB; 5400rpm
Graphics:	128MB dedicated (dual link DVI)
Display:	15.2" TFT (1440x960)
Optical drive:	8x Dual Layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL, DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Bluetooth:	Built in BT 2.0 +EDR
Wireless:	Built in Wi-Fi 802.11g
Weight:	only 2.5kg
Battery life:	up to 5.5 hrs

## PowerBook 17" \$3,999 or \$40 p/wk\*

(M9970X/A)

Processor:	1.67GHz G4
RAM:	512MB (up to 2GB max)
Hard Drive:	120GB; 5400rpm
Graphics:	128MB dedicated (dual link DVI)
Display:	17" TFT (1680x1050)
Optical drive:	8x Dual Layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL, DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Bluetooth:	Built in BT 2.0 +EDR
Wireless:	Built in Wi-Fi 802.11g
Weight:	only 3.1kg
Battery life:	up to 5.5 hrs

RAM upgrade - 12"	512MB (72993)	\$125	1GB (79295)	\$296	Free installation, SAVE \$33
RAM upgrade - 15"/17"	512MB (83554)	\$125	1GB (83555)	\$227	Free installation, SAVE \$33
Hard Drive upgrade	100GB (83662)	\$269			



protecting your digital cargo



journey \$129.95



sports \$129.95



alley \$79.95...\$89.95



intention \$159.95



wedge \$99.95



glove \$49.95

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# Power Mac G5

## The 64-bit Professional

### Dual & Quad processor power

The Power Mac G5 Dual and Power Mac G5 Quad introduce dual-core PowerPC processors, a modern PCI Express architecture, and wicked-fast workstation graphics. Power one up today and blaze through your work, deliver ahead of schedule, and astound your clients — because this baby really moves.

#### Power Mac G5 Dual 2GHz \$3,199 or \$33 p/wk\*

(M9590X/A)

Processor:	Dual-core 2GHz G5
RAM:	512MB (up to 16GB)
Hard Drive:	160GB; 7200rpm
Graphics:	NVIDIA GeForce 6600 LE with 128MB SDRAM
Optical drive:	16x Dual Layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Bluetooth:	optional
Wireless:	optional

#### Power Mac G5 Dual 2.3GHz \$3,999 or \$40 p/wk\*

(M9591X/A)

Processor:	Dual-core 2.3GHz G5
RAM:	512MB (up to 16GB)
Hard Drive:	250GB; 7200rpm
Graphics:	NVIDIA GeForce 6600 with 256MB SDRAM
Optical drive:	16x Dual Layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Bluetooth:	optional
Wireless:	optional

#### Power Mac G5 Quad 2.5GHz \$5,299 or \$51 p/wk\*

(M9592X/A)

Processor:	2 x Dual-core 2.5GHz G5
RAM:	512MB (up to 16GB)
Hard Drive:	250GB; 7200rpm
Graphics:	NVIDIA GeForce 6600 with 256MB SDRAM
Optical drive:	16x Dual Layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Bluetooth:	optional
Wireless:	optional

**FREE training!**  
See page 4

Free installation  
for RAM

#### RAM upgrade option

512MB (2 x 256MB) (83548)	\$110
1GB (2 x 512MB) (83549)	\$183
2GB (2 x 1GB) (83550)	\$335

#### ECC RAM upgrade option

512MB (2 x 256MB)	ASK US
1GB (2 x 512MB)	ASK US
2GB (2 x 1GB)	ASK US

#### Add a Hard Drive

160GB SATA-II (83668)	\$159
250GB SATA-II (83667)	\$239
500GB SATA-II (83669)	\$699

## Apple Displays



#### 20" Apple Cinema Display \$1,249 or \$14 p/wk\*

(M9177X/A)

Screen size:	20" diagonal (viewable)
Resolutions:	1680 x 1050 pixels
Viewing angle:	170° horizontal & vertical
Response time:	16 ms
Connection:	DVI
Ports	2 x USB 2.0, 2 x FireWire 400



#### 23" Apple Cinema HD Display \$2,099 or \$22 p/wk\*

(M9178X/A)

Screen size:	23" diagonal (viewable)
Resolutions:	1920 x 1200 pixels
Viewing angle:	170° horizontal & vertical
Response time:	16 ms
Connection:	DVI
Ports	2 x USB 2.0, 2 x FireWire 400



#### 30" Apple Cinema HD Display† \$3,999 or \$41 p/wk\*

(M9179X/A)

Screen size:	30" diagonal (29.7" viewable)
Resolutions:	2560 x 1600 pixels
Viewing angle:	170° horizontal & vertical
Response time:	16 ms
Connection:	DVI
Ports	2 x USB 2.0, 2 x FireWire 400

† Requires ATI Radeon 9650, Radeon X850 XT or NVIDIA GeForce 6800 GT DDL Card, 6600 LE, 6600, 7800 GT, FX 4500





**Final Cut Studio**  
\$1899 (M9911Z/A)

Final Cut Studio puts everything professional editors need to elevate production values in a single box: Final Cut Pro 5, Soundtrack Pro, Motion 2 and DVD Studio Pro 4.



**Final Cut Pro 5**  
\$1499 (M9920Z/A)

Final Cut Pro is built for speed, with a real-time multistream effects architecture, multicam editing tools and advanced colour correction. Integrated with other Apple professional applications



**Final Cut Express HD**  
\$429 (M9732Z/A)

Final Cut Express HD provides the compositing, titling and effects capabilities you need to express your creativity. As a full-featured package, Final Cut Express HD offers an unparalleled combination of power and affordability.



**Soundtrack Pro**  
\$399 (M9904Z/A)

Sample-accurate and nondestructive editing in a mouth-watering interface make Soundtrack Pro the must-have tool for pro audio engineers and sound designers alike. Enjoy more than 50 effects from Logic Pro and over 5,000 Apple Loops.



**Motion 2**  
\$399 (M9893Z/A)

Motion 2 ushers in a new paradigm, offering true film-quality output, GPU accelerated real-time performance. Create advanced motion graphics with drag-and-drop ease, startling clarity and unprecedented colour fidelity.



**DVD Studio Pro 4**  
\$699 (M9854Z/A)

Showcase your HD content in HD resolution with DVD Studio Pro 4. Create professional-quality DVDs right away, developing more sophisticated commercial projects as your expertise grows.



**Logic Pro 7**  
\$1,499 (M9664Z/A)

The industry-leading application for music creation and audio production dramatically broadens the capabilities of computer-based studio environments with Logic Pro 7.



**Logic Express**  
\$499 (M9670Z/A)

Logic Express provides a step up from GarageBand for aspiring musicians, producers and composers without breaking the bank.



**Fostex PM 0.5**  
\$749 (83282)

The ideal choice for smaller studios requiring nearfield monitoring, the perfectly formed PM0.5 offers 70 watts of biamped power and produces great full range performance with exceptional neutrality even at high Sound pressure levels.

**For expert professional audio advice, contact our South Yarra AppleCentre**



**Reason 3.0**  
\$749 (83386)

Reason 3.0 is a virtual studio rack with all the tools and instruments you need to turn your ideas into music. And it's more than just a set of excellent synths and effects. It's a complete music system.



**Ableton Live 5**  
\$799 (83387)

Ableton Live is the only solution designed for each stage of the musical process, from creation to production to performance.



**ReMote 25 MIDI controller**  
\$899 (82916)

Novation ReMOTE 25 is a 25-key board with aftertouch, semi-weighted for great feel, plus pitch bend and mod joy stick and programmable touchpad. See our audio specialists for details



# Aperture

Designed for professional photographers



## Aperture

Introducing the first all-in-one post-production tool for photographers. Built from the ground up for professionals, Aperture offers an advanced RAW workflow, powerful compare and select tools, nondestructive image processing and versatile printing and publishing

**\$699** (MA154Z/A)

## Mighty Mouse

Apple Mighty Mouse is intuitive, easy to use and designed to accommodate whether you want to use it as a single or multi-button mouse. It features the scroll ball, an innovative technology that lets you scroll in all directions with ease—vertically, horizontally and diagonally. (MA086ZM/A)

**\$79**

### IceCube Generation II 3.5" 250GB external hard drive (triple interface)

Featuring a usb 2.0, FireWire 400 & 800, the IceCube is a slim, stylish and powerful drive. Featuring a fanless design and passive cooling, it is ideal for multimedia and quiet working environments.

**\$379** (82187)



### Xpress 800 (Firewire 800) external HDD

Designed to house 2 desktop size hard drives, the Xpress 800 enclosure outranks the competition on performance and price. With a metal chassis and internal fan, the Xpress 800 keeps your drives cool and is perfect for an editing environment where speed and performance is critical.

**500GB \$565** (82184)

**800GB \$1,509** (83704)



### M9 mini pod

Designed to fit under the Mac mini, the M9 also features a built in 3 port USB and 3 port FireWire hub. Available in various sizes from 80GB through to a whopping 500GB.

**160GB \$292** (82792)

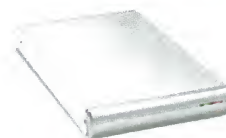
**250GB \$363** (83705)



### Daisycutter 2.5" 40GB external HDD (USB 2.0 & Firewire 800)

The Daisycutter provides cutting-edge technology with maximum durability, flexibility, and portability. The smallest of the bunch with an extra slim design and aluminium casing, the (Firewire 400 & USB 2.0 also available)

**\$289** (82185)



## Video cards with grunt

### ATI Radeon 9200 PCI Edition 128MB

**\$265** (82199)

- Flexible dual display support with resolutions up to 2048x1536 and portrait modes.
- Equipped with DVI-I, VGA and S-VIDEO ports as well as a DVI-I to VGA adaptor.
- VIDEO IMMERSION technology enables integration of industry-leading digital video features, including advanced de-interlacing algorithms for unprecedented video quality. Suitable for G3, G4 or G5 with available PCI slot.

### ATI RADEON X800 XT MAC EDITION 256MB for G5 only

**\$990** (82498)

- Capable of powering any combination of digital flat panel or analog displays with dual-link DVI, dual-DVI and native connectivity to the Apple Display Connector (ADC).
- Industry standard support is built in for ultra-high resolution LCDs, which includes support for one Apple 30-inch Cinema HD Display1 (2560 x 1600 resolution) and is fully Mac® OS X compliant. Suitable for G5 with AGP slot.

### ATI RADEON 9600 Pro Mac & PC Edition 256MB

**\$429** (83707)

Provides up-to-date dual-link DVI output display support, powering the market's latest, ultra-high resolution flat panel monitors, including Apple's 30-inch Cinema HD Display® (2560 X 1600 resolution). Suitable for G4 or G5 with AGP slot.



# Airport Express with AirTunes. Unwire your home!



Wireless Internet, printing and iTunes music streaming. Enjoy your iTunes music library in virtually any room of your house. Share a single broadband Internet connection and USB printer without inconvenient and obtrusive cables. Create an instant wireless network on the go. Extend the

range of your current wireless network. How many devices do you need to do all this? Just one – so simple!

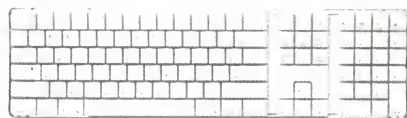
**For Mac & Windows \$199**  
(M9470X/A)



## AirPort Extreme Base Station

AirPort Extreme is the next-generation wireless networking solution from Apple. AirPort Extreme Base Stations support AirPort-enabled and AirPort Extreme-enabled Mac computers, as well as Windows PCs with Wi-Fi certified 802.11b cards installed. (M8799X/A)

**\$299**



## Apple Wireless Keyboard

The first time you use this wireless keyboard, you'll realize just how much freedom it offers you. Rather than being tied to your computer, forced to sit in a perhaps uncomfortable position for hours at a time, you can work however you like. (M9270LL/A)

**\$99**



## Apple Wireless Mouse

Since this mouse is wireless, you'll enjoy the freedom to use it practically anywhere. Not only does the optical tracking engine allow it to work well on most surfaces, but the fact that it's wireless means you can use it in your left hand or your right — or from across your office. There's no cable to clutter your desk and tether you to your computer. (M9269Z/A)

**\$99**



## NETGEAR DG632 ADSL Modem Router

All-in-one Modem, Router, and Firewall with USB and Ethernet Connectivity

**\$99**

### Key Features

- Speeds up to 140 times faster than dial-up
- Simultaneous Ethernet and USB connectivity.
- Network Address Translation (NAT)
- VPN pass-through (IPSec, PPTP, L2TP)
- Smart Wizard install assistant interactive guide

Combination 2-port router, modem, and firewall plugs directly into your ADSL line for instant connectivity -- Supports up to 8 Mbps downstream (upgradeable to 24 Mbps with ADSL2+) and 800 Kbps upstream. Includes free Ethernet and USB cables for connecting your first computer.

(79754)



## NETGEAR DG834G 54 Mbps Wireless ADSL Firewall Router

Wireless ADSL Firewall Router with 4-port 10/100 Mbps switch

**\$189**

### Key Features

- Combines modem, router, switch, 802.11g access point, and SPI True Firewall
- Up to 5X faster than 802.11b
- True Firewall with Stateful Packet Inspection (SPI) & Intrusion Control, Denial of Service (DoS), Virtual Private Network (VPN) pass-through
- Smart Wizard detects/connects to your ISP
- Works with both 802.11g & 802.11b

Combination ADSL modem, router, 10/100 LAN switch, 802.11g access point, and SPI True Firewall lets you instantly and safely download large files, videoconference, and distribute and play high-quality digital movies, photos, and MP3s. Directly connects four computers and/or printers and protects your network against intruders. Smart Wizard interactive install assistant guides you for easy setup.

(76585)



## NETGEAR WGR614 54 Mbps Wireless ADSL Firewall Router

**\$109**

### Key Features

- Faster Speeds up to 54 Mbps in 2.4 GHz mode
- Share your Cable/DSL Internet connection – with or without wires!
- Smart Wizard – automatically detects and connects to your ISP
- True Firewall with SPI and NAT protection
- Easy set up with interactive install tutorial

# Telstra Heart Beat Client Supported

Cable/DSL 54 Mbps Wireless Router lets you experience the blazing-fast network wireless speeds of 54 Mbps – up to five times faster than the popular 802.11b wireless network. These higher speeds make it a snap to web surf, download large files, videoconference, stream high-quality digital movies, MP3 music and photos and play online games.

(76316)

# NETGEAR®



# Macromedia Studio 8

The essential software suite used to design, develop and maintain interactive online experiences.



## Get the complete toolset.

Studio 8 is the must-have suite for start-to-finish design, development and maintenance of websites, applications, games, interactive presentations, and mobile content.

## Express creativity.

Studio 8 offers the broadest range of creative tools for expressiveness and creation of vibrant interactive media, websites, or applications. Use advanced graphics, text, animation, video, and audio tools with precision control and quality. From simple animated graphics to sophisticated interactive experiences, Studio 8 provides a full suite of tools for limitless creativity.

## Get more done.

Studio 8 speeds the design, development, and maintenance process, with reliable round-tripping between Macromedia products, integration with third-party products, and key features like batch processing, batch encoding, and general performance enhancements to get projects done faster.

**\$1,650** (83415)

Upgrade \$675 (83685)

Academic \$506 (83156)



### Dreamweaver 8

The industry-leading web development tool, enabling users to efficiently design, develop and maintain standards-based websites and applications.

**\$675** (83459)

Upgrade \$336 (83686)

Academic \$336 (83009)



### Flash Professional 8

The industry's most advanced authoring environment for creating interactive websites, digital experiences and mobile content.

**\$1,182** (83687)

Upgrade \$506 (83604)

Academic \$421 (83440)



### Contribute 3

Freeing designers and developers from web maintenance, allowing others to easily update content in a controlled environment that preserves the integrity of the website.

**\$259** (79892)

Upgrade \$136 (83690)

Academic \$153 (78776)

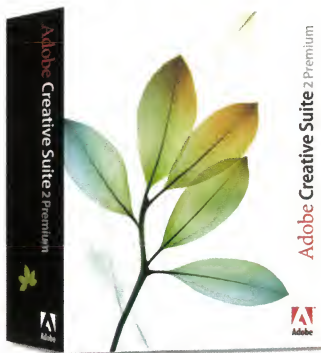
### Fireworks 8 - included with Studio 8

Balance maximum image quality with minimum compression size as you create, edit and optimize images for the web with precise control.

### FlashPaper 2 - included with Studio 8

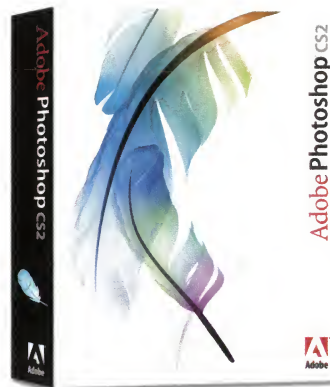
Allowing anyone to easily convert documents, presentations, spreadsheets and other file types into Macromedia Flash documents or PDF files with one click.





**\$1,899**

The complete design environment for print, web and mobile publishing



**\$965**

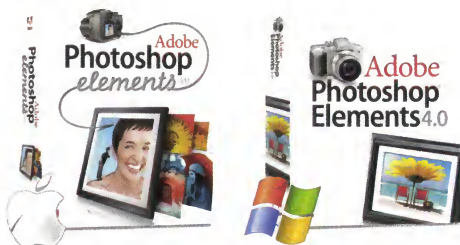
The professional standard in desktop digital imaging

## Adobe Creative Suite 2 Premium

Creative Suite 2 Premium software is a unified design environment that combines full new versions of Adobe Photoshop CS2, Illustrator CS2, InDesign CS2, GoLive CS2, and Acrobat 7.0 Professional software with new Version Cue CS2, Adobe Bridge, and Adobe Stock Photos. Delivering the next level of integration in creative software, Adobe Creative Suite 2 enables you to realize your ideas anywhere — in print, on the Web, or on mobile devices. (81743). Upgrade \$925 (81624), UPG from Photoshop \$1,255 (81625)

## Adobe Photoshop CS2

Adobe® Photoshop® CS2 software, the professional image-editing standard and leader of the Photoshop digital imaging line, delivers more of what you crave. Groundbreaking creative tools help you achieve extraordinary results. Unprecedented adaptability lets you custom-fit Photoshop to the way you work. And with more efficient editing, processing, and file handling, there's no slowing you down. (81621). Upgrade \$265 (81623)

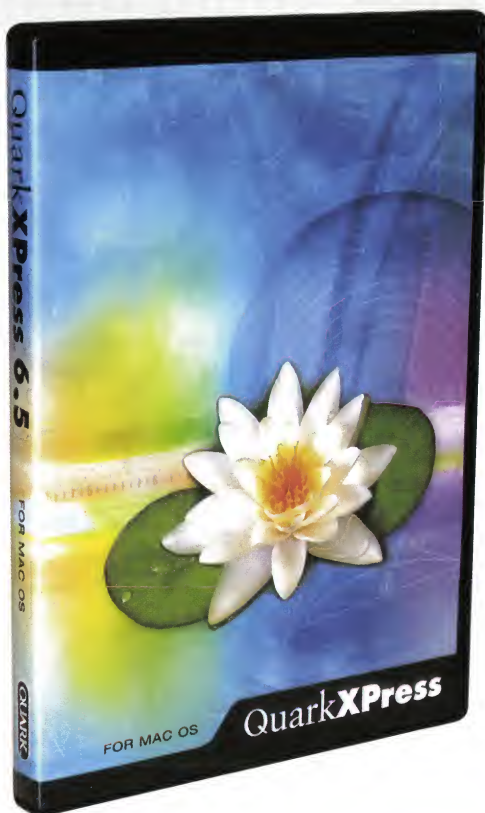


## Photoshop Elements

Transform your digital photos like a pro. Make quick fixes when you need to or use advanced editing options for more control.

**\$169** - Mac (79557, Mac)  
**\$110 Education** (79557, Mac EDU)

**\$199** - PC (83692, PC)  
**\$110 Education** (83692, PC EDU)



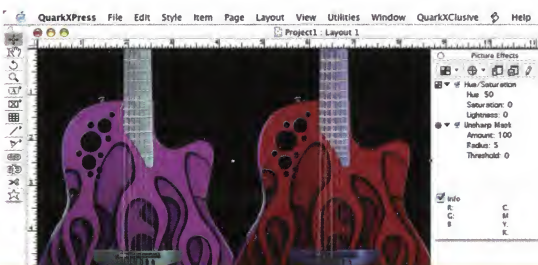
## QuarkXPress 6.5

QuarkXPress is powerful layout software with an intuitive, versatile interface that lets you combine writing, editing, and typography with color and pictures to produce dynamic final output.

QuarkXPress is widely used by magazines, newspapers, advertising agencies, typesetters, printers, corporate publishers, design firms, catalog houses, book publishers, and form designers. It is also used by businesses with publishing requirements.

**Normally \$1,795, Now \$1,650** (81832 Mac) (83695 PC)

Quark Xpress Upg V4 to V6.5 Mac **\$595** (82441)  
Quark Xpress Upg V5 to V6.5 Mac **\$450** (83694)





# GIGANTICALLY SMALL



## INTRODUCING THE WORLD'S SMALLEST MICRO HARD DRIVE

Less than 1 inch in diameter the Imation Micro Hard Drive is one of a kind. Available up to 4GB, this incredibly portable drive makes transferring and sharing files easy and fast. For maximum reliability and file security, the drive offers Magnetic Data Encoding and Error Correction. And to protect files, the USB Micro Hard Drive is engineered with shock resistance and a 128-bit encryption and innovative File Synchronisation - automatically creating a backup of your data. Not only is the drive a low-cost alternative to other micro hard drives, it is compatible with both Windows and Mac environments. This is the next big thing.



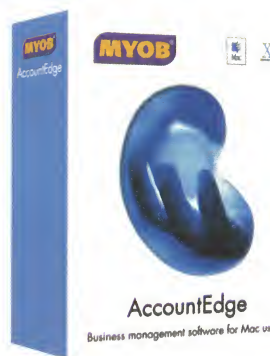
# MYOB Business Management Software



**\$149**

#### Includes

- MYOB FirstEdge Getting Started guide
- MYOB FirstEdge User Guide,
- MYOB FirstEdge program on CD,
- Registration Form (to be completed and returned to MYOB Australia)
- 30 days of MYOB Installation Support from registration



**\$595**

#### Includes

- MYOB AccountEdge Getting Started Guide, MYOB AccountEdge User Guide.

## MYOB FirstEdge

Easy business and accounting software for small or home-based business on the Mac. Run all your basic management tasks from the one easy business program. MYOB FirstEdge simplifies the way you quote, track and invoice your jobs, simultaneously tracking your transactions and GST, and providing you with over 70 reports to help you understand your business. (72568)

## MYOB AccountEdge

Business management software for Mac users. Issued with a single user licence and with unlimited additional licences available, MYOB AccountEdge gives you the power to manage even the most complex medium-sized business, with a powerful multiple pricing level inventory, multiple currency transaction functionality, integrated payroll, and more. (82405)

## TechTool Pro V4.0.6 for Tiger

TechTool Pro 4 is a fully-featured hardware and software diagnostic/repair utility for Mac OSX. This utility tool has an amazing amount of functionality and should be considered as an essential Mac OSX utility

**\$219** (73734)

## Buy TechTool Pro 4 and receive Disk Studio FREE

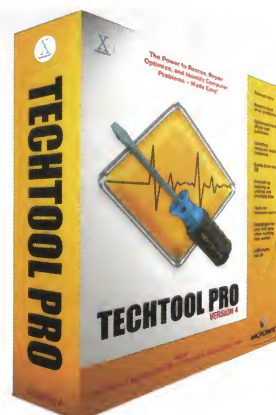
(OEM version. Offer valid between 01/12/05 & 31/01/06 or whilst stocks last.)



#### Disk Studio

DiskStudio allows you to create and remove disk partitions on the fly! (83716)

**\$129**



## FileMaker Pro 8

FileMaker Pro 8 is the #1-selling easy-to-use database software that effortlessly manages all your information. With easy starter solutions, the ability to import and organise any type of information, FileMaker Pro 8, is the simply best way to create solutions to work the way you do.

FileMaker Pro 8 Retail	<b>\$499</b> (83026)
FileMaker Pro 8 Upgrade	<b>\$299</b> (83027)
FileMaker Pro 8 Education	<b>\$249</b> (83068)



## Toast 7 Titanium

Toast 7 is the best way to save, share and enjoy a lifetime of digital music, movies and photos on CD and DVD.

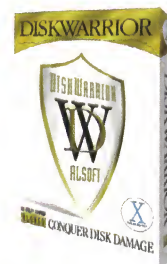
**\$140** (83028)



## Popcorn

Popcorn helps you easily make high quality copies of your DVD movies.

**\$99** (80921)



## DiskWarrior

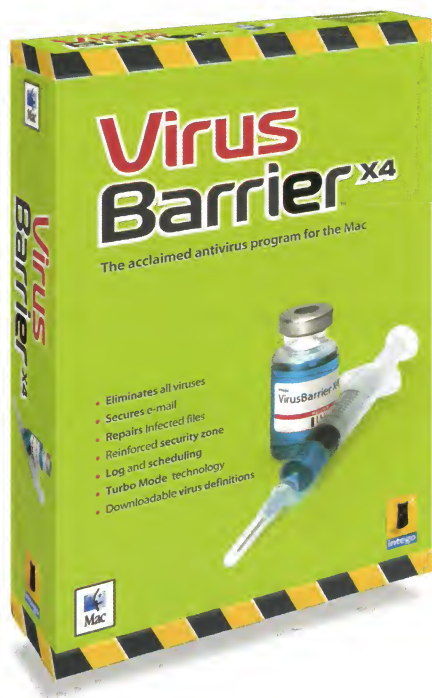
DiskWarrior is a safe powerful utility used to eliminate directory damage and maintain your hard drive.

**\$160** (73594)



# Intego VirusBarrier X4

The simple, fast and non-intrusive antivirus security solution for your Mac.



## \$99

(83696)

Intego VirusBarrier X4 is the simple, fast and non-intrusive antivirus security solution for Macintosh computers, by Intego, the leading publisher of personal security software for Macintosh. It offers thorough protection against viruses of all types, coming from infected files or applications, whether on CD-ROMs, DVDs or other removable media, or on files downloaded over the Internet or other types of networks.

Intego VirusBarrier X4 protects your computer from viruses by constantly examining all the files that your computer opens and writes, as well as watching for suspicious activity that may be the sign of viruses acting on applications or other files. With Intego VirusBarrier X4 on your computer, you can rest assured that your Macintosh has the best protection available against viruses of all kinds.

Intego VirusBarrier X4 is an application that works in the background and checks everything that your computer does, looking for viruses. It detects and eradicates all known viruses, including Word and Excel macro viruses, and even viruses targeting the Windows operating system. It knows the unique signatures of all known Macintosh viruses, and whenever a new virus is discovered, Intego's Virus Monitoring Center goes into action to provide updated virus definitions, which you can download using Intego VirusBarrier X4's automatic NetUpdate function.

Purchase the **NEW Virus Barrier X4** and receive the **NEW Personal Barrier X4 FREE** (Value is RRP\$99)

offer ends January 31st 2006 or whilst stocks last.



+



\$99

# Intego Personal Backup X4

Backup and protect your digital life

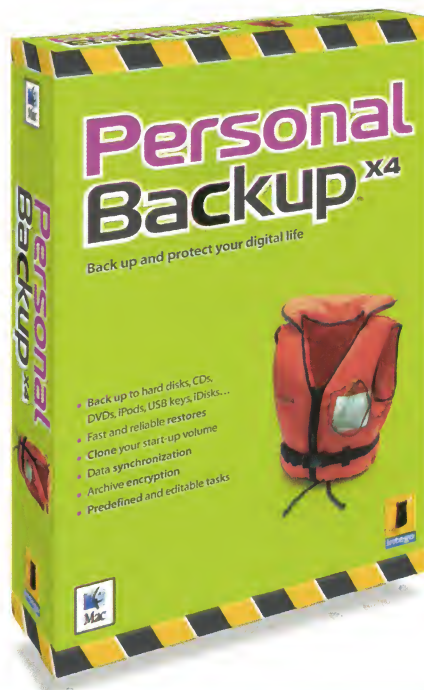
## \$99

(83697)

Intego Personal Backup X4 offers you a system for backing up and protecting your digital universe. Create a backup procedure and eliminate the risk of losing your data through accidental deletion, malfunction, disk erasure.

Intego Personal Backup X4 includes many features intended to make backing up your data faster and easier. With a wide range of new options, Intego Personal Backup X4 provides you with improved speed and effectiveness.

Intego Personal Backup X4 backs up your files automatically or manually, to removable media (such as recordable CDs or DVDs), to partitions on your hard disk, to network volumes, to an iDisk, to an iPod, to external hard drives (USB or FireWire) or to disk image files. Intego Personal Backup X4 also restores backups, synchronizes data between two computers (such as a desktop computer and an iBook or PowerBook), and clones your Mac OS X volume.



gift vouchers available



AppleCentre

[www.compnow.com.au](http://www.compnow.com.au)

17



# LaCie Storage Solutions



## LaCie d2 DVD±RW with LightScribe 16x FireWire, Double Layer and Toast® 7 Titanium for Mac \$299 (83639)

Record professional-quality, personalized DVDs with the multi-format LaCie d2 DVD±RW Drive with LightScribe. With this dual format drive and Toast® 7 Titanium recording software, Mac OS X users can store and archive as much as four hours of high-quality DVD video, up to 16 hours of VHS video or up to 8.5GB of data, music or photos on a single double layer DVD±R disc. This versatile drive now also features innovative LightScribe labeling technology, which burns custom, silkscreen-quality lasting images directly onto your discs using the very same laser that burns data.



Mac mini not included

## LaCie mini 160GB (7200rpm) FireWire 400 - Companion hard drive 160GB .....\$269 (82579) 250GB .....\$379 (83708)

Back up your computer, upgrade storage capacity or easily transfer files with this stylish, compact and user-friendly drive. Expand your digital life by storing more photos, videos, music, and files with the LaCie mini drive – the ideal companion hard drive for Mac mini. Its unique 4-corner crown fits seamlessly into the underside of the Mac mini. Engineered to allow for a natural cooling airflow to move between these two drives for greater heat dissipation. It offers convenient plug & play and ultra-quiet operation. Stack several LaCie mini drives under the Mac mini for additional capacity or use it with any other computer with a FireWire connection.



## LaCie d2 Hard Drive Extreme with Triple Interface 7200rpm

USB 2.0, FireWire 400, FireWire 800

250GB .....\$399 (83057)  
500GB .....\$699 (72613)  
1000GB (1TB) .....\$1,299 (83578)

Combining all of the leading interfaces into one drive, the LaCie d2 Hard Drive Extreme with Triple Interface now also comes in higher capacities to handle your most demanding projects and storage needs. It can be easily shared among multiple users and environments and is conveniently plug & play. With up to 800Mbps/s per bus and up to 64MB/s per drive burst, it's ideal for a variety of professional applications, including digital audio/video, graphic design and system backups. It can be conveniently stacked, stood upright or rack-mounted, and it's specially designed to be ultra-quiet and dissipate heat.



## LaCie Mobile Hard Drive, Design by F.A. Porsche

USB 2.0 and FireWire – bus powered

40GB .....\$249 (82749)  
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## Virtual PC for Mac

*"I tested Virtual PC 7 on a new, powerful Apple iMac G5, and found it ran all the Windows programs I tried flawlessly, ...."*

Walt Mossberg, Australian Financial Review 19 October 2004

*"...when I need to work with Window files, the iMac's G5 processor is strong enough to run .. Virtual PC for Mac... which tricks the Mac into thinking it's a Windows machine. A cruel trick, for sure, but it works in a pinch. That way I can have fun with the iMac, ..., and work with Windows-based files and application..."*

Peter Lewis, Fortune 15 October, 2004

### Maximize Your Mac

Even though you're loyal to your Mac, there are times when you may need to cross that bridge to the PC world. With the help of Microsoft Virtual PC for Mac v.7, you can access PC-only software, files, networks and devices faster and more intuitively with your Mac.

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79238	Virtual PC for Mac 7.0 Win XP Home	<b>\$449</b>
79763	Virtual PC for Mac 7.0 Win 2000 (Dec'04)	<b>\$499</b>
79703	Virtual PC for Mac 7.0 Upgrade	<b>\$199</b>
79702	Virtual PC for Mac 7.0	<b>\$299</b>

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## Epson AcuLaser C1100 Colour Laser Printer

**\$758<sup>#</sup>** (81098)

The Epson AcuLaser C1100 is the affordable colour and monochrome laser printer that delivers high-speed, photo quality prints for small businesses and workgroups that require a compact and easy-to-use solution. The AcuLaser C1100 features the latest in Epson's toner technologies - AcuBrite - and a new Wrap Transfer system to produce outstanding results first time, every time.

C1100N (Network ready with Ethernet card) **\$979** (81939)  
CX111N (with flatbed scanner) **\$1,639** (82644)  
CX111NF (with flatbed scanner & fax) **\$1,969** (83709)

C1100N Extended Warranty (3 years total) **\$132** (83008)  
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The new four-colour inkjet printer designed for great versatility and print quality. From document to photo printing on a wide range of Genuine Epson papers, the STYLUS C67 is perfect for the home office, student and small business user.

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### Epson STYLUS PHOTO R210

Photographic quality colour Inkjet printer featuring 6 individual colour ink cartridges for beautiful detailed photo prints. (77042)

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- High resolution prints at up to 5760 x 1440dpi using Epson's Resolution Performance Management Technology
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- True BorderFree™ edge to edge printing up to A4

**\$346** (83713)

Extended warranty (3 years total) \$109



### Epson STYLUS PHOTO R250

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- Multiple Card Slots for true PC free printing
- 5760x1440 Optimised DPI Using RPM Technology
- 4 Individual Ink Cartridges
- True Border Free Edge to edge printing on A4, 5x7 and 4x6 paper

**\$264** (83675)

Extended warranty (3 years total) \$64 (83676)



### Epson STYLUS PHOTO R350

- 2.4" Colour Preview Screen
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- 5760x1440 Optimised DPI Using RPM Technology
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Extended warranty (3 years total) \$89

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## JBL Duet

**\$84.95** (77852 white, 77853 silver)

The JBL Duet multimedia speaker system provides smooth and accurate sound for any portable music player or computer. With its incredibly easy setup and use, Duet is a sophisticated approach to achieving great two-channel sound. Available in white & silver.



## JBL Creature II

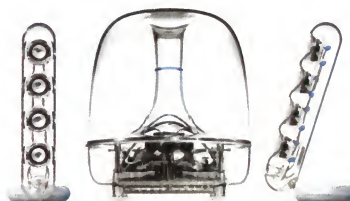
**\$194.95** (78617 white, 78684 grey, 81213 black)

Featuring cutting-edge sci-fi design and superior sound performance, JBL Creature II is a unique "plug and play" solution, compatible with all Macs and PCs – both desktops and portables – as well as your iPod. JBL Creature II offers consumers cool design and exceptional sound, proving that excellence does not have to come in an expensive package. The JBL CREATURE speaker system includes a touch volume control. Available in white, grey & black.

## harman/kardon SoundSticks II

**\$299** (79797)

SoundSticks II encourages consumers to step out of the ordinary speaker world and offers sound in an original and unique package. The system, described as curvy, sleek and sexy, provides consumers with sound that is loud and clear. SoundSticks II employs a new computer-optimized multi-band parametric equalization and Harman's unique "capacitance touch" control buttons on the right satellite allow for direct access to volume control



## Bose Companion 3

**\$449** (79797)

Companion 3 speakers represent a premium choice for all your computer audio sources. From MP3s, CDs and Internet radio to DVDs, streaming video and games. Hear full, rich sound from tiny satellite speakers designed to complement—and conveniently attach to—flat panel monitors. It's a unique combination of elegance and convenience, whether you place them on your desk or opt for a speaker-free desktop.



## Bose Companion 2

**\$199** (79696)

Companion 2 speakers bring more than new flame to your desktop. They're also designed for convenience, with both the volume control and headphone jack close at hand. All so controlling your listening experience is as simple as you'd like it to be. Dual inputs enable the speakers to be used with your computer as well as a second audio source, such as a portable MP3 or CD player. And Companion 2 speakers are magnetically shielded to prevent interference with your monitor.



## Altec Lansing MX5021

**\$399** (W 83285, B 83286)

Two midrange drivers in each satellite produce extremely responsive sound, while the horn-loaded tweeter offers extra-wide dispersion of those crystal-clear highs. Not to be outdone, the woofer pumps out deep lows you'll feel in your bones. Add in THX certification for cinema-quality sound, and you've got an excellent alternative to a high-end home audio system. Also available in black.



## Logitech Z-5500 Digital 5.1 Speakers

**\$699** (82758)

The Logitech Z-5500 Digital, a THX-certified, 500-watt 5.1 surround sound speaker system that offers everything you could possibly want... and some things you didn't even know you needed. And once you plug in your PC, DVD or music player, or video game console, you'll never want to listen to anything else.



# Elgato EyeTV

Watch, record, edit & enjoy.

EyeTV lets you watch live TV in stunning digital quality, directly on your Mac. Using the on-screen remote control or included infrared remote control you can:

- pause a program
- instantly rewind and repeat a favorite section
- fast forward past unwanted content
- record TV on your Mac and replace your VCR



## EyeTV EZ

**USB 2.0 Analogue TV Receiver**  
EyeTV EZ is the easiest way to start watching TV on your Macintosh.

Simply connect your antenna or cable feed or the signal from your satellite or cable box and receive high quality TV directly on your Mac. (83628)

**\$299**

## EyeTV for Digital Terrestrial TV (DTT)

**USB 2.0 DTT Receiver**

EyeTV for DTT lets you watch live TV directly on the Mac in crystal clear digital quality - at home, in the office or on the go. USB powered and including a portable mini antenna, the EyeTV DTT is perfect for those on the go. (83627)

**\$299**

## EyeTV 410 for Digital Terrestrial TV

**Digital TV Recorder with DTT Receiver and CI**  
The EyeTV 410 not only lets you watch or record live TV directly on the Mac in crystal clear digital quality, it is also capable of receiving Pay TV. For PayTV reception, users require a CAM (Conditional Access Module) and a PayTV subscription (both not included). (79991)

**\$499**

## EyeHome

**Digital Media Player**

EyeHome accesses your existing iPhoto®, iTunes®, Movies and EyeTV content from your Mac on the TV. The content appears on the TV organized as it is on the Mac, making it incredibly easy to navigate and find the correct digital content. EyeHome can be used without the hassle of having to install and learn a new application or reorganize any files on the Mac. (82505)

**\$399**

# Canopus

Convert your old VHS or other analog footage to digital using one of the Canopus digital video converters.

VHS video



Canopus digital video converter



import straight into iMovie for editing



burn to DVD to preserve in digital quality forever



## ADVC55

ADVC55 is ideal for capturing analog video into FireWire-equipped notebook and desktop editing computers. There are no drivers to install and ADVC55 does not require a power supply when used with a 6-pin DV cable. (76991)

**\$399**



## ADVC110

ADVC110 is similar to the ADVC55 in features, however being bi-directional it has the capability to convert digital back to analogue. (79898)

**\$599**



## ADVC300

The ADVC300 is the ultimate bi-directional analog to digital video converter unit for the video enthusiast. Featuring high-quality image enhancement technology including digital noise reduction and image stabilization using Line Time Base Correction (LTBC), ADVC300 instantly cleans, stabilizes and preserves old VHS and Hi8 videos in clean DV format. (79899)

**\$999**



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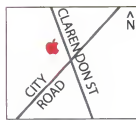
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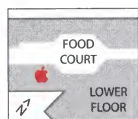
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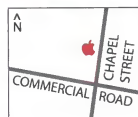
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**JVC GZ-MG20 HDD MPEG2 \$1299.** The entry to the Everio G series sees a 20GB HDD based video camera offering at an impressive price point, with 25x zoom and 16:9 shooting adding to the cameras credentials. 20GB means between 4 and 25 hours storage, depending on shoot quality. SD cards can extend your memory further. It uses USB 2.0 file transfer and JVC include basic edit software for working with MPEG2.



**Panasonic NV-GS75 miniDV DV \$1319.** Quite simply, this is the cheapest 3CCD camera in town. Excellent colour and detail is captured across five shooting modes. 10x zoom and no widescreen here, but it seems a fair trade off for such quality image capture.



**JVC GZ-MG50 HDD MPEG2 \$1749.** The 30GB Everio offers between 7 and 37 hours recording plus a higher resolution CCD and brighter lens system, offering overall improved image quality and still capture. With less zoom (15x) and no other major feature additions, it doesn't leave the MG20 all that far behind.



**Canon MVX4i miniDV DV \$1799.** A 4-megapixel offering in a compact form factor, this is a good video/still combination camera. Canon's Dig!c DV processor is great at either task and doing it well. Beyond the combo and Canon's true 16:9 CCD, Canon's usual features are here.



**Hitachi GX20E DVD MPEG2 \$1899.** Hitachi's top DVDCAM features 16:9 shooting, SD card support and file transfer over USB. In-camera editing makes this a good choice for fast, rough work, which is perfect for families who don't want to fuss around in edit software.



**Sony DVD7 DVD MPEG2 \$1299.** If you want to go for a DVD camera, how about one that embraces the format? The form is eye catching with a touch screen LCD as viewfinder, though the specs aren't a real stand out.



**Sony PC1000B miniDV DV \$1999.** Sony has decided to challenge CCD dominance in the video market by offering CMOS video cameras (CMOS is usually found in still digital cameras, from mobile to high-end) and this is a 3CMOS design. A very compact unit, standard Sony features abound plus a 24-frame effect mode for a film feel. Worth a store test to get a sense of CMOS versus CCD.

**\$2000 to \$4999.** The middle of the field right now holds everything most people could ever ask for. Pros and consumers alike will find a lot to fall in love with amongst the gems below.



**Canon MVX3i miniDV DV \$2299.** This Canon introduces optical image stabilising to the list for best results in steadying camera shake. SD memory can be used to shoot in MPEG4. Audio input level controls are also available through the LCD

interface. True 16:9 is here, as usual for recent Canon models.



**Panasonic NV-GS400 miniDV DV \$2749.** The GS400 boasts a lot of top class features, with 3CCD, 16:9 recording (not true 16:9 though) and optical image stabilising. Many manual settings available via the lens ring, making the adjustment experience quite dynamic. A great lens too, which offers excellent shoot results.



**Sony HDRHC1 miniDV HDV \$2999.** That we have HDV early in the mid-tier cameras is just astounding. A 3-megapixel CMOS based system, the HC1 shoots 1080i HD in true 16:9 or SD in 16:9 or 4:3. If you don't have an HD screen, the camera will downsample in real-time with superb quality. Can also capture 4-channel audio with an optional mic. Sony's touch screen LCD system with spot metering, spot focus and the rest makes for a great package.



**JVC GY-DV301E-K miniDV DV \$4835.** A genuine pro-quality 3CCD camera with XLR input and selectable phantom power for serious audio performance. Can shoot both 4:3 and 16:9. Also offers a streaming mode that, with an optional card, can send signal over a wireless connection to a computer.

**Sony VX2100 miniDV DV \$4999.** The VX line has been around for some time now, but that doesn't make it old. A 3CCD with 16:9, a lot of manual video and audio controls for precision quality control as well as many good preset shoot modes, plus a good quality built-in mic.





**Canon XM2 miniDV DV \$4999.** Canon's best mid-range unit in a comfortable size with plenty of bells and whistles. 3CCD with optical image stabilising, a 20x zoom, great manual image and audio controls, XLR audio input, an integrated lens hood and 16:9 shooting.

**\$5000+.** Serious players come here in search of the camera with everything. Today there are cameras in this category — still inside of \$10,000 — that boast features found only in six-figure range cameras just a few years ago. Bells, whistles, and entire parades are to be found in this illustrious list of lenses.

improved skin tone production and film-like frame modes for a better film look. A large 3.5-inch LCD offers great preview playback. A very good built-in mic too, plus a notable HD engine that really delivers fantastic image quality.

**Panasonic HVX200 Solid state (P2) DVCPro HD \$TBA.** A complete shoulder-mount broadcast camera, with full manual controls and XLR audio across four channels and HD colour sampling at 4:2:2 for best possible results. The P2 solid-state memory system is superb, with super-fast throughput to handle the highest quality image available today. Shoot from standard SD to 720p or 1080i HD to DVCPro HD for true cinema quality footage. Capacity is currently up to 8GB per card. The stuff of revolutions. Arriving early 2006.

**Best picks of 2005.** There are a lot of cameras to get your head around and the decision isn't easy.

In the sub-\$2,000 range it's hard to go past the Canon MV800i or Panasonic GS75. The Canon's good features at an unbelievable price beg for it to be put in the stocking of any kid that dreams of becoming the next Peter Jackson. The GS75 makes 3CCD picture quality so affordable that you simply must give it a test drive before passing such a camera over for a standard CCD.

In the mid-range the Sony HC1 is a definite standout. High-definition video under \$3000? Twelve months ago that would still have been a dream for the end of the decade, but here it is with features that match the unsurpassed image quality. Sony's use of CMOS in video is also forcing CCD manufacturers to push themselves further than ever before, which can only be good for image quality across the board.

And finally, if you've got money to spend, the future is already here with the P2-based Panasonic HVX200. P2 capacity will increase, giving you greater storage capacity over time so your camera will age like a fine wine. Everything a pro could ask for — now and into the next decade.

**Canon XL2 miniDV DV \$7999.** Billed as "the ultimate 3CCD camera system", this really is a great unit. Either shouldered or handheld, the XL2 has true 16:9, cinema shooting modes, full manual controls across the board, dual XLR audio inputs with phantom power and interchangeable lenses ... if it shot HD, it would be pretty well perfect.

**JVC GY-HD101E miniDV HDV \$9675.** A true shoulder mount camera though not too bulky, this 720p HD camera offers true 24p recording for excellent film-style shooting. With dual XLR inputs, the camera comes standard with a great quality shotgun mic. It can also convert to 1080i output on the fly. An add-on hard disc system can be mounted at the rear to deliver full quality video straight to disc.

**JVC JY-HD10EX miniDV HDV \$5939.** JVC's HDV camera shoots 720p HD with a single-CCD and features optical image stabilising plus dual XLR mic inputs for excellent audio production. Also features a unique rotating grip to make it easy to shoot low or high angles.

**Sony FX1 miniDV HDV \$5999.** The HC1's big brother, the FX1 shoots 1080i HD using a 3CCD system. Cinema modes offer

## The trouble with MPEG2

There is just no edit software support for MPEG2, with the nature of the format being a tangled web of video and audio signal. JVC includes software for basic editing with its Everio range, but you really need to use DVD ripping/conversion software to bring your videos into a format that is more friendly to serious editing. I spoke to JVC on this issue, and its spokesperson said the company is talking to edit software manufacturers, including

Apple, on the matter of including support for native MPEG2 editing. Nothing on the horizon yet. On the other hand, if these cameras would incorporate a DV streaming mode whereby MPEG2 footage could be sent to your computer over Firewire in real-time, there wouldn't be so many issues. Many cameras now feature real-time analogue-to-digital conversion modes, so why not a similar mode for creating a virtual DV stream?





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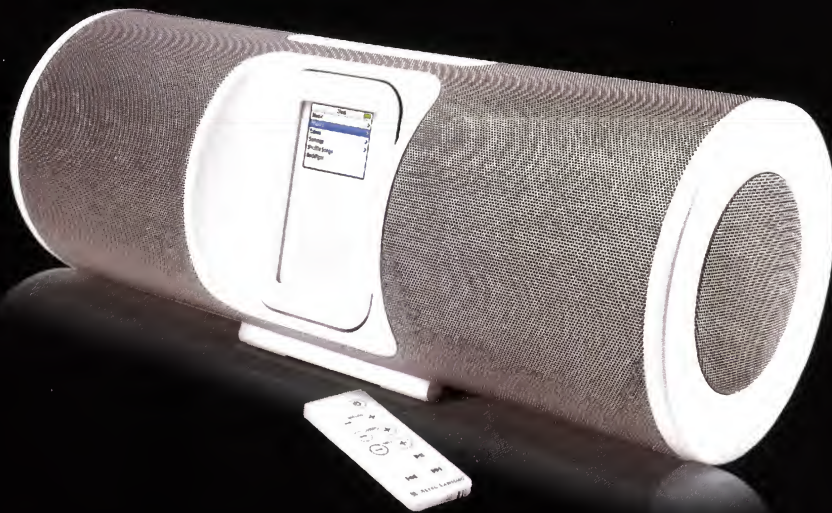
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Australian distributor of Nikon products

## Wireless photos for the masses

**H**ERALDING a new age for the consumer photographer, both Nikon and Kodak have released digital cameras incorporating AirPort-like wireless networking capabilities.

Kodak has made a bold play with its EasyShare-one camera, which not only comes with an 802.11b wireless networking card — the Kodak Wi-Fi Card — but is also designed to work with Telstra wireless hotspots around the country. According to Kodak, purchasers of the EasyShare-one will be eligible for a free trial of the wireless hotspot service offered by Telstra through its 850 Hotspot locations.

Users will be able to e-mail images and share their photos online without the use of a Mac by using the Telstra Wireless Hotspots to access Kodak's EasyShare Gallery service. The EasyShare Gallery service, which used to be known as Ofoto until earlier this year, allows users to share their photos and videos online using a standard internet connection, but the Hotspot connectivity is exclusive to the EasyShare-one camera.

Users should also be able to print wirelessly to a printer, provided the printer has an 802.11b-capable wireless interface. Kodak claims that the EasyShare-one can wirelessly connect to Kodak's EasyShare Photo

Printer 500, so long as the user has installed the optional Kodak Wi-Fi card for that printer, of course.

As to the camera's specs, the EasyShare-one is capable of taking 4-megapixel shots (up to 2304×1728), and features a 3x optical zoom (35mm equivalent is 36mm-108mm). The EasyShare-one also packs a huge 256MB of memory, which is substantial, and also incorporates a funky 3-inch LCD display, which can swivel out from the back.


Retailing for just \$899, the EasyShare-one offers a wonderfully mobile solution for point-and-click shooters. For further info, contact Kodak Australia on 1800 147 701.

Nikon, meanwhile, has introduced two new wireless cameras, the Coolpix P1 and Coolpix P2. In contrast to the modest resolution of the Kodak EasyShare-one, the Coolpix P2 comes with a 5-megapixel capability (up to 2594×1966) and 16MB of internal memory, while the Coolpix P1 features a full 8-megapixel image capture size (up to 3264×2450) and includes 32MB of built-in storage. Both cameras feature a 3.5x optical zoom (35mm equivalent of 36mm-126mm), and, of course, both include an 802.11b/g wireless adapter that enables them to connect to Wi-Fi-enabled printers or Macs.



**Plug in without plugging.** Kodak's EasyShare-one will allow users to connect to any of Telstra's 850 Wireless Hotspots across the country.

Like many of Nikon's Coolpix cameras, the P1 and P2 incorporate a number of advanced scene modes designed to make it easy for anyone to take a good shot in almost any kind of environment and situation. As well as being able to take movies and shoot in continuous mode, the Coolpix P1 and Coolpix P2 feature a Face Priority Autofocus. This means that the cameras are able to analyse an image, determine where the face is, and automatically focus to that area.

At just \$649 for the Coolpix P2 and \$799 for the Coolpix P1, these are very affordable options for those looking to connect wirelessly, either to their Mac or their printer. For further info, contact Maxwell on 1300 366 499. 



**Feature-rich.** Featuring 802.11b/g wireless connectivity, Nikon's 8-megapixel Coolpix P1 (and 5-megapixel P2) pack loads of point-and-shoot simplicity.


## Low-cost gems

**L**OOKING to print your own photos without breaking the purse strings?

Epson offers a couple of options with its Stylus C67 and C87 printers. Both printers utilise Epson's DURABrite Ultra inks, which have been designed to be waterproof and smudge-proof, and when used with genuine Epson papers, provide improved light fastness for 120 years, according to Epson. Both the C67 and C87 printers feature four individual ink tanks (there's an optional high-capacity black ink

tank available), and are capable of printing at up to 5760 × 1440dpi resolution on a variety of media types. Users are also able to take advantage of borderless printing with both these printers in sizes ranging from 4 × 6 inches, all the way up to A4, making it ideal for outputting your favourite photos. The only major difference between the Stylus C67 and Stylus C87 is print speed: the C67 is capable for printing at 17ppm (pages per minute) in black text (A4 colour photos take approximate five

minutes, according to Epson), while the C87 can pump out 22ppm in black text (A4 colour photo takes only 2.5 minutes).

The \$109 Stylus C67 and the \$149 Stylus C87 represent affordable options. For further details, contact Epson on (02) 8899 3666. 



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Australian home of Olympus products



## Olympus floods the market

**A**BIG launch this month sees Olympus unleashing a whole new range of digital cameras, some of which are designed for beginners and others for professionals. Taking pride of place at the top of the food chain is the E-500 digital SLR, which incorporates an 8-megapixel CCD (allowing images up to 3264×2448 resolution) and a fully interchangeable lens system. To help minimise particles accumulating on the image sensor, the E-500 uses a Supersonic Wave Filter (SSWF) to reduce any dust build-up. The E-500 also comes with a 2.5-inch LCD screen on the back that utilises Olympus's Hyper Crystal LCD technology, allowing for a brighter image for a wider field of view. Amazingly, Olympus manages to provide all this in a compact form factor that weighs only 435 grams.

Olympus offers a single-lens kit version of the E-500, with a 17.5mm-45mm zoom, for just \$1299, while a twin-lens kit, which adds a 40mm-150mm zoom, is available for \$1599.

If you're looking for the resolution, but don't feel you need a digital SLR, then Olympus offers the SP-310 (7.1 megapixel — 3072×2304) and SP-350 (8 megapixel — 3264×2488) digital cameras. The SP-310 and SP-350 come in similar form factors, which include a 3× optical zoom

and a 2.5-inch LCD screen. Each camera features several autofocus options, but can also be focused manually. The SP-310 and SP-350 also come with professional-level features such as auto-exposure bracketing, a super macro mode that allows users to focus on subjects only 2cm away from the lens, and the ability to save images in RAW format. Priced at \$599 and \$699 respectively, the Olympus SP-310 and SP-350 represent good value for such high-resolution capabilities.


For those looking for a little more focal length, Olympus has released the SP-500UZ digital camera. Featuring an impressive 10x optical zoom (35mm equivalent of 38mm-380mm), the SP-500UZ is a 6-megapixel camera that is capable of capturing images at up to 2816×2112. To further extend this camera's zooming capabilities, Olympus offers an optional 1.7 tele-converter for the SP-500UZ that will enable photographers to get a 35mm equivalent focal length of 646mm. Like the SP-310 and SP-350, the SP-500UZ can be used in a super macro mode that enables this camera to focus at objects at only 3cm away. To make shooting images particularly easy, Olympus has incorporated 21 scene modes into the SP-500UZ, including settings for portraits, sport and sunsets.

**Hi-res wonder.** The latest digital SLR from Olympus, the E-500, comes with an 8-megapixel CCD.

**Takes all types.** The affordably priced SP-350 has loads of resolution, and is ideal for novice and more serious users.

**Shooting Nemo.** The latest in the all-weather Mju series, the Mju-600, comes with settings for shooting underwater.

Priced at just \$599, the SP-500UZ is a good option for those who want a lot of focal length for their money.

Rounding out Olympus's plethora of new cameras this month is the compact and stylish Mju-600 (μ-600). Like other cameras in the Mju range, the Mju-600 has an all-weather metal exterior that is designed to be resistant to water splashes from every direction. At the guts of the new camera is a 6-megapixel CCD that is capable of taking pictures at up to 2816×2112 pixels, and this is backed up by a 3× optical zoom (35mm equivalent of 35mm-105mm). According to Olympus, the TruePic TURBO image processor in the Mju-600 is capable of making the most of darker lighting conditions, and the camera features special shooting modes that make better use of the available light. Along with a large number of scene modes, the Mju-600 also has a shooting mode for taking pictures underwater — so long as the camera is used with the optional PT-029 Underwater Housing, which is capable of operating at down to 40 metres. If you're looking for an all-round camera that is useful under many conditions, then the \$499 Mju-600 would be ideal, particularly for point-and-click shooters. 

**Look at the size of that lens.** The 10x optical zoom on the Olympus SP-500UZ is well worth the investment.



# iPersonality

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Choose from Australia's largest range of over 200 accessories to suit all your iPod needs and individual style.

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phone 02 9975 2799



David Holloway.



### Hot Links

[www.apple.com/au/itunes/](http://www.apple.com/au/itunes/)

Get the latest iTunes software

[www.apple.com/downloads/dashboard/music/itmsrss.html](http://www.apple.com/downloads/dashboard/music/itmsrss.html)

RSS feed straight from the iTMS

[docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=302392](http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=302392)

Create a backup of your iTunes files to CD or DVD

[phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPublishedPlaylist?id=555286](http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPublishedPlaylist?id=555286)

An iMix I created

# Everything you always wanted to know about the iTunes Music Store

*(but didn't need to know until now)*

Well, at last it's here. The long-awaited, eagerly-anticipated and oft-complained about iTunes Music Store was launched in Australia at the end of October. As it has in every other market in which it has launched (Australia was the 21st territory to get its own Store), it is widely expected to dominate the legal music download market and to alter the way music is retailed in general (for details of one such change, see the sidebar "A different DRM").

## A different DRM

You may not be aware of this, but every CD you've ever copied to your iTunes library has been a breach of the law. Where American copyright law allows for "fair use" of purchased CDs, permitting them to be copied to computers for strictly personal use, Australian copyright law does not.

However, songs purchased on the iTunes Music Store can be burned to CD an unlimited number of times, with the one proviso that each unique playlist can only be burned seven times.

This doesn't mean there has been a change in copyright law. All it means is that the rights holders (the music companies, in most cases) have given their permission for their property (the songs) to be used in this way. So finally, you can fill your iPod and make your own mix CDs with a clear conscience. ● Matthew J.C. Powell

It is, of course, more than just a store where you shop, find stuff, buy it and go away. You are encouraged to interact with the Store, making recommendations and even building your own albums for other like-minded people to buy.

**The basics.** To start buying music, all you need is iTunes, which is a free download for both Mac and PC from Apple (see "Hot links" if it isn't already installed on your machine). Once you have it installed, you just need to click on the Music Store option in the list on the left of the iTunes main window. Wait a few seconds and you will see the Music Store's front page. An important point from the get-go: iTunes doesn't necessarily default to the Australian store. If you scroll right to the bottom of the page you will see a Choose Country drop-down from which you can select Australia.

Then you need an iTMS account. Click on the Sign In button at the very top right of the iTunes window. You will be presented with a window with the option of entering your account details; these can be your .Mac or AOL account, or if you have an Apple ID (if you've used the online Apple Store for instance) use that; otherwise you need to click on the Create New Account button. Creating an account is a three-step process: agree to the terms and conditions, enter your e-mail address and password, and then your credit card details.

If you don't have a credit card, you will need to have purchased an iTunes Music Card. These are available from Apple's online Store or from any Coles-Myer retail

store (such as OfficeWorks, Bi-Lo, many Shell stations and of course Coles and Myer). On the front page of the music store there is an Account section. Click on Redeem and you're away. Be aware you will still need to create an account but will not need to supply a credit card number unless your purchases exceed the value of the gift card.

Once your account is set up, all you need to do is click on any Buy Album or Buy Song button next to a search result or link on the front page. Songs cost \$1.69 each, and albums vary a little — mostly they're around \$16.99. iTunes will ask if you are sure about the purchase then download your music to iTunes. All the new music can be found in the Purchased Music playlist as well as your general library. You can remove songs from the Purchased Music playlist without deleting the actual file.

**Key tools.** The whole iTMS experience is as much visual as auditory. However, don't underestimate the power of the Browse button found on just about every page. If you click on it, you are taken to the traditional iTunes interface where you can use the search box to find what you are looking for. You'll be surprised how often an artist will pop up whose music you might have owned years ago. I've spent a few dollars since the iTMS launch picking up songs I never updated from cassettes (yes I'm showing my age).

If you are interested in buying music for a particular year, the US version of iTMS has a link on its front page to Billboard charts for

**A** Your iMix has been published and will be available for 1 year. [Tell a Friend](#)



**Australian Macworld iMix**

See all iMixes by this user

Tell a friend

Total Songs: 11

\$18.59 [BUY ALL SONGS](#)

How do I create an iMix?

**Rating**

☐ ★★★★★  
☐ ★★★★☆  
☐ ★★★☆☆  
☐ ★★☆☆☆  
☐ ★☆☆☆☆

[Submit](#)

**iMix Notes**

This iMix is for the lover of pop riffs. You have been warned!

#	Name	Time	Artist	Album	Price
1	Shot In Europe	3:35	Falling Joys	Wish List	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
2	Skid Row (Downtown)	4:16	Soundtrack	Little Shop of H...	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
3	Oxygene 2	7:41	Jean-Michel Jarre	Aero	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
4	2-4-6-8 Motorway	3:17	Tom Robinson	The Gold Collect...	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
5	Under the Sun	4:18	Paul Kelly & The...	Under the Sun	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
6	Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger	3:44	Daft Punk	Discovery	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
7	Poison Arrows	3:58	Mike Oldfield	Discovery	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
8	Pure	3:47	The Lightning S...	Cloudcuckooland	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
9	Just Like Heaven	3:32	The Cure	Kiss Me, Kiss Me...	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
10	Whatever It Is	3:18	Ben Lee	Awake Is the Ne...	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>
11	You Are the Girl	3:53	The Cars	Door to Door	\$1.69 <a href="#">BUY SONG</a>

every year. Hopefully the Aussie one will follow suit, but in the meantime the US one can be a handy prompt for songs you liked but have forgotten.

When you search for a particular artist, you'll be taken to a page that lists everything currently available from iTunes for that artist. In the upper right-hand corner there are two options: "Artist Alert" and "Tell a Friend". The Artist Alert system allows you to be told when a favourite artist has new material added to the iTunes catalogue. The first time you select an alert you'll be asked for your account details, then it's an automated process — each alert is added to your list.

The Tell A Friend feature applies to every album. Just click on the link, enter the e-mail address of who you want to send the link to and you're done.

The Gift This Music option is also on every album. To give someone else an album, song or custom playlist, you create a playlist in iTunes as you would to create an iMix (see below) and then click on the arrow to the right of the playlist — iTunes will ask if you want to give the playlist as a gift or publish it as an iMix.

When gifting music or videos, it's important to remember that the person you gift the music to has to be in the same country as the Store the gift is coming from. So don't think you can send your pals in New Zealand songs from the iTunes.

## For the kids or music addicts.

The iTunes offers an option of rationing the amount of money that can be spent per month. Designed for children, you just need

to click on the Allowance link on the iTunes front page and you can set up the option for your kids to be able to purchase their own music within a budget that you and your credit card set. There is also the option of restricting the type of music that can be downloaded. Of course, if you're worried about sending yourself broke updating your music catalogue then this option might suit you as well.

**iMixes.** If you feel strongly about a particular music genre or artist, you have the option of adding an iMix to the 330 000 plus already in existence. An iMix is essentially a playlist that is made publicly available via the iTunes. The only limitation is that all songs

in the iMix need to be available on the iTunes. To submit an iMix is a simple process:

1. Create a new playlist. Drag any song from the iTunes to that playlist (or anything from your purchased music list in iTunes). You do not need to have purchased a song to have it in your iMix.
2. Select the playlist and then choose Create an iMix from the File menu in iTunes. You will be asked to confirm your account details and details of your iMix.
3. Click on publish and you'll be presented with your iMix page on the iTunes, including a collage of the album covers that contain the songs you chose. **A**

## Protect your purchases

You should frequently back up the data on your machine. This is advice *AMW* (and every other responsible computer publication) has been giving you for years. If you value what is on your computer you should have an extra copy of it somewhere, because it is not a matter of if, but when, it will all go wrong.

Never has this been more true than with the iTunes Music Store. Now, for possibly the first time, there is data on your machine that has a measurable monetary value. \$1.69 per song, \$3.39 per video, \$16.99 per album — that all adds up, and if you lose it you lose it. If your computer is lost or stolen or in some way destroyed, Apple will not replace the items you have purchased from the Store

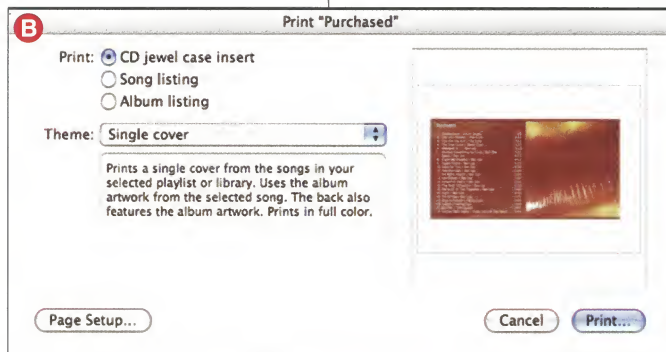
— you'll have to buy it all again.

The solution is to back up your iTunes library to an external drive and keep that drive safe. Keeping a backup will not affect the number of machines authorised to play your songs, nor will it affect any of the other rights-management features of the Music Store. But if your hard drive goes south for whatever reason, you'll be able to recover your songs a lot more cheaply than buying them all again.

If you don't have a large external drive to back up your library, but would prefer to back up your purchased songs to CD or DVD, Apple has detailed instructions in its KnowledgeBase (see "Hot links")

● Matthew JC. Powell





It took me all of five minutes to create an 11-song iMix (see "Hot links"). The Tell a Friend feature is available for each iMix, and anyone who likes your choice can buy the whole mix as an album, with price depending on the number of songs in the mix.

*[Editor's note: the songs in David's so-called "Australian Macworld iMix" do not necessarily reflect the musical taste or otherwise of anyone else at AMW — MJCP]*

**Video.** You have a couple of options for video on the iTunes. The free one is the movie trailer section — there's a sizable number of new release and DVD release trailers for viewing in small, medium and large sizes. Unfortunately, at this stage the trailers are all American, with US ratings information and release dates. Apple doesn't appear to be planning on making this feature international.

Purchasing video involves exactly the same process as music. At time of writing the only video available for purchase was a range of music videos and half a dozen short animations created by Steve Jobs's Pixar. Any music video purchased slots into your library and plays as a normal track. The video tracks are preformatted as 320×240 for playback on the iPod (with video) and will play in the small album artwork window at bottom left or you can click on the fullscreen button to play it larger.

**Podcasts.** Podcasts haven't changed aside from the fact there is now a much larger amount of Australian content. The ABC Radio stable is very well represented, from Radio National to Triple J. Commercial radio is also there, as is SBS and some newspaper columnists.

If you're new to podcasts, they are simple to download — just click on the subscribe button next to the podcast description. iTunes will then download the latest episode and

transfer to your iPod. All the podcasts are free and there are even video podcasts (approaching twenty at time of writing).

Submitting your own podcast is also very simple. Once you've navigated to the podcast section of iTunes, there is a link on the left called Submit a Podcast. You then are taken to a page to enter the URL of your podcast RSS feed. We'll have more detailed coverage on creating and submitting your own podcasts in AMW in the very near future.

### Download and print cover art.


One of the criticisms levelled at online music delivery is that you can't physically hold the product. Cover art in particular has always been a key part of the music purchasing experience and even the listening experience. Every time you purchase a song via the iTunes and down-

continue to do so automatically for future episodes as they are released. They reside in the Podcasts playlist in iTunes as well as your general library. Like any other file they also

load it, you also download the cover art, so no work to be done there. To view it you just ensure the artwork pane is showing in the bottom left of the iTunes window. If it isn't, select Show Artwork from the Edit menu or just type ⌘-G.

If you are creating CDs of your downloaded music, you may want to print the cover art as well. Again, iTunes comes to the party with a range of templates for you to choose from. To print a CD insert:

1. Select Print from the iTunes File menu.
2. Choose the type of insert you would like. There are a large number of combinations, both colour and black and white. The Single Cover option is the one that creates the full colour replica of the album cover.
3. Print. Results will depend on your printer and paper and will involve some cutting, but I was impressed enough with what I produced. **B**

**Cool Widget.** If you want to save having to log in to the iTunes to check for new or added music and you have Tiger installed, you might like the iTunes RSS widget (see "Hot links"). You can choose whether you'd like a list of new music, music just added, top albums, top songs and featured albums. 

## Respect my authority!

Songs purchased on iTunes can be played on as many iPods as you want, but only five computers at a time (either Windows or Mac). This means, for instance, that if you want to share music on your main computer with the kids' iMac, that machine has to be authorised to use your library.

Thankfully, this is a simple enough process. When a protected song comes up on the kids' machine, a dialog box appears requesting authorisation. Enter your iTunes account details and from then on that computer can play your purchased songs. Even if you have multiple user accounts set up on the machine, it only needs to be authorised once.

If you want to share your library with a sixth computer, you'll need to de-authorise one of the previous five. Again, this

is easy enough. Go to the Advanced menu in iTunes, and select "Deauthorize computer". Then that computer will not be able to play songs from your library any more.

It's very important, if you sell your Mac, to de-authorise it before you stop having access to it. Whoever you sell the computer to will be happy for the access to your songs, but you won't appreciate losing one of your five.

Also, when you perform a major upgrade or repair to your machine — like a new motherboard — you should de-authorise the machine first, and re-authorise it after the change. Otherwise the old motherboard, sitting in landfill somewhere, will still be authorised to play your songs and you'll only have four authorisations left. ● Matthew JC. Powell

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unbelievably cheap!

# Why would you buy from anywhere else?



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7,500 songs  
View photos  
Play video



## Epson MFC - CX4700

Print  
Scan  
Copy



## Epson EMP-S3 Projector

1600 ANSI lumens  
30 to 300inch screensize  
Lightweight



## Canon IXUS 750

7.1 megapixel  
2.5" LCD screen  
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RRP  
~~\$449~~

**\$432.50**

RRP  
~~\$220~~

**\$179**

RRP  
~~\$1699~~

**\$1299**

RRP  
~~\$799~~

**\$649**

[www.everythingapple.com.au](http://www.everythingapple.com.au)



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Purchase anytime day or night and we'll ship it to you anywhere in Australia.



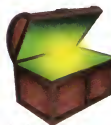
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 Authorised Reseller



By Anthony Caruana.



## Don't leave home without it

IT'S holiday time and that means decisions: what do you take with you and how do you get it there? With a Mac, a PDA, a mobile phone and the right accessories you can turn your average holiday into a great one.

**Staying entertained.** HandBrake will let you rip a few of your favourite movies to the hard disk of your iBook or PowerBook and you can leave your precious DVD collection safely locked up at home. You'll need to plan ahead as it can take a couple of hours to decrypt and store each movie. If disk space is an issue then you can put a few on your iPod by enabling it for disk use.

If you're planning a long drive it might even be worth ripping a few for use on your PDA to keep your passengers entertained. In HandBrake's options click the "Picture Size" button. Set the width to the largest aspect of the screen's resolution. For example, a standard Pocket PC runs at a resolution of 240x320 pixels, so set the width to 320. This will also reduce the size of the output file so that you can get a few movies onto a 1GB storage card or your new video-capable iPod.

With video entertainment sorted out, think about music. As all your favourite tracks are already in iTunes and synchronised to your iPod you'll need some speakers. Altec Lansing's inMotion range does a good job in a package that's little bigger than a paper-back. As a bonus you can connect any device with a 3.5mm headphone socket to them. A third party power supply is a good purchase as well so that you can run the speakers off mains power to save on batteries.

**Staying connected.** If you just can't bear to be out of touch, planning your

connectivity before leaving is a must. While there are many online lists of WiFi hotspots I like JiWire. The standalone application loads a database of hotspots from around the world and, while it doesn't list every single location in the world, it has enough to get you online. It contains pricing and lets you filter the list for free hotspots. There's also a widget but it relies on an internet connection as it refers to an online database.

A discrete way to find a hotspot is to use one of Kensington or Proporta's portable WiFi finders. Just press a button and a series of indicator lights tell you if there's an access point nearby and whether it's locked down or open. Another approach is use miniStumbler on a Pocket PC to scan for hotspots.

If you won't be able to get a WiFi connection while you're away then you can use your mobile phone to make a dial-up or GPRS connection but watch out as it doesn't take long to rack up a hefty bill. If you plan to use this regularly, look for capped data plans with your service provider.

If you're travelling overseas make sure that you've enabled global roaming on your mobile. Check out the costs of calls made and received while roaming, as it's often cheaper to buy a pre-paid SIM in the other country. GPRS can also be used overseas but its availability varies so check things out before leaving.

**Broadband on the go.** Many telcos are now offering mobile broadband services. I've tested out the Telstra Wireless Broadband and 3's NetConnect services and both work well. Costs vary between carriers but there's generally an up-front hardware expense of around \$300 and monthly fees starting around \$50 per month.

3's QuickLink Mobile application is used for making connections and works very well. The performance monitor is excellent giving a snapshot of download speed. If you move out of 3's coverage area then your connection roams onto the Telstra network. However, extra charges apply.

Telstra's card is a little smaller than 3's. Its software is more basic but works well. In

comparative testing using the ZDNet Broadband Speed Test I found that 3's service was a little quicker. However, that needs to be offset against the different costs of each provider.

(Vodafone also launched its 3G network just before this issue went to press, offering the advantage of coverage in numerous countries outside Australia for international travellers. However, I was unable to test the service for this report.)

STM's Sports BackPack can carry an astonishing amount of gear. In fact, it's possible to fill it to the point where it's too heavy to carry. I was able to carry a 15" PowerBook, PDA, some power supplies, a change of clothes including shoes and half a dozen magazines with room to spare. Crumpler's Base Toucher backpack held a little less and getting the PowerBook out was a little trickier than with the STM due to the different shape. However, both look great, can carry plenty of gear, have excellent reputations for durability and are comfortable to carry.

**Packing it in.** Finally, you'll need to look for some way of carting your kit without looking like a nerd on holidays. Aussies are fortunate to have two of the best techno-bag companies in the world — STM and Crumpler make some of the most attractive and functional laptop bags and backpacks you can get. They can hold plenty of stuff without screaming "Please rob me, I'm carrying a laptop".



### Hot Links

[www.stmbags.com.au](http://www.stmbags.com.au)

STM Bags

[www.crumpler.com.au](http://www.crumpler.com.au)

Crumpler Bags

[handbrake.m0k.org](http://handbrake.m0k.org)

HandBrake

[www.jiwire.com](http://www.jiwire.com)

JiWire

[www.bigpond.com](http://www.bigpond.com)

BigPond Broadband

[www.three.com.au](http://www.three.com.au)

3 Australia

[www.proporta.com](http://www.proporta.com)

Proporta Mobile Accessories

[www.kensington.com](http://www.kensington.com)

Kensington





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Buy an Apple Protection Plan with your new G5 iMac and we'll double your RAM to 1 GB or give you this Epson multifunction printer FREE!

Bonus 24 month warranty on Epson printer

## The all new G5 iMac

### All new and improved

Boasting new features and greater performance in a design that's sleeker than ever, the new iMac G5 has the power to change how you interact with your computer – and with your music, photos and movies.

### Front row seat

The new *Front Row* and the *Apple Remote* frees you from your desk and let you command your music, photos, movies and DVDs up close or from across the room.

### Slimmer, all-in-one design

The hard drive, stereo speakers, slot-loading *SuperDrive*, built-in *iSight* and more, are all enclosed within the iMac G5 widescreen flat-panel display which is now sleeker than ever. On the back panel, you have two FireWire and three USB 2 ports, plus two more USB ports on the keyboard.

### iSight for everyone

The iMac G5 now sports an *iSight* camera built right in almost invisibly above the display. It works with *iChat* for incredibly easy video conferencing. And you can snap pictures using the fun, new Photo Booth software.

### The center of your digital life

The iMac G5 includes *Mac OS X Tiger* and the *iLife '05* suite of applications, making it perfectly tuned to serve as the center of your digital life. Create photo albums, watch or make a movie, check the weather and much more – built out of the box.

### Built-in wireless

The iMac G5 lets you jump right in to the wireless world by including both 802.11g AirPort Extreme for wireless networking and Bluetooth 2.0+EDR technologies – built in.

## Aperture from Apple \$699

Aperture is the first all-in-one post production tool that provides everything photographers need after the shoot. Aperture offers an advanced and incredibly fast RAW workflow that makes working with a camera's RAW images as easy as JPEG. Built from the ground up for pros, Aperture features powerful compare and select tools, nondestructive image processing, colour managed printing and custom web and book publishing.

### Key Features of Aperture:

- Advanced RAW Work flow • Professional Project Management
- Intuitive Photo Edit Tools • Photographer-Friendly Retouching
- Versatile Printing and Publishing

## Epson STYLUS™ PRO 4800 \$2950

The Epson STYLUS™ PRO 4800 printer, Epson UltraChrome K3 Ink and Genuine Epson media delivers benefits for professional or commercial printing environments.

- Lightfastness ratings of up to 75 years\* for colour and up to 200 years\* for black-and-white prints

\* Based on estimates from Epson. Results may change when tested.

- Excellent water resistance
- Improved scratch resistance
- Perfect media-to-application matching for black and white photography, colour photography, creative and fine-art photography, commercial proofing and graphic design.



Recommended retail \$3294.50  
Our price \$2950

15% off all EPSON pro consumables for December

EPSON®

EPSON ULTRACHROME K3 INK

Rent for \$30.46 a week. (Conditions may apply).

## Accessories for the iPodder in your life

Essential add-ons. No self respecting iPod owner would be without them! Check this iPod accessory package.

eSkin protection for the new generation video iPod.  
5 colours

eSkin protectors for the impossibly small iPod Nano. These skins are impossibly cool! Also in five groovy colours.

ePlugs. They're comfortable, they come with a volume control and you can hear music from your iPod!



Power adaptor, eSkin, FM transmitter and ePlugs rrp \$205 - bundle price \$140 save \$65

Oh yeah, we sell iPods too.

WiseIT  
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## Multiple choice

**O**K class, let's review. We want computers in education because they'll help develop thinking skills, self expression, reflective learning and, on the way, students may learn some of what's possible with technology, sufficient to be prepared for Real Life™.

We've chosen Macs because, well, there's really no choice is there? But what about choice from within the Apple stable?

Very early in his second coming, Mr Jobs decreed that the existing plethora of models would be reduced to only a few, arguing that the market was confused by the extent of the offering. Eventually, this process led to the eMac — the education Mac, stripped to the bare essentials with a Cathode Ray Tube (the one that Jobs pronounced dead) instead of the iMac's LCD screen.

At the time of writing, these are still available, albeit to the education market only — the same situation that existed when they were first released. This means that we can now spend between \$950 for a basic eMac to nearly twice that much for a new 17" iMac, if we are looking for desktops.

Last year, I described my choice of ideal teacher's laptop computer (*AMW*, 04.2004) and I find myself going through the same sorts of decision making as I struggle with budget 2006 in trying to get the best outcome.

It boils down to this: do I get twice as many desktops or not?

On the one hand I have a low power consuming iMac, with gigabit networking, inbuilt video conferencing camera and DVD burner; on the other, a vanilla box that reads CDs.

The iMac, however, has a lot of stuff that I don't want to pay for: built in wireless, Bluetooth, and a remote control. In fact, not only do these features add to the cost, they may actually be counterproductive in a classroom. It remains to be seen if a remote brought from home can interfere with iMacs at school.

The question of iMac vs eMac has been debated recently on the MacEnterprise listserver, where (mostly tertiary) people who are responsible for deploying and managing Mac networks hang out. One list member brought a good perspective by posing a series of questions: "Who needs colour graphics in a teaching lab?" (1980), "Who needs sound in a teaching lab?" (1985), "Who needs CD-Rs in a teaching lab?" (2000).

So what are these machines, proposed for budget 2006, being used for? Perhaps this will let me focus a bit better. In a general access lab, such as may be found at a tertiary institution, you may only need a

machine for word processing and web browsing. Sort of an internet café approach. Non-availability of cheap, undecorated machines for this purpose would marginalise the brand further should the eMac be made unavailable.

Even so, these machines could well suit a programming group (given the easy availability of php/sql/apache and the Developer's toolkit), or an elementary film unit.

I think I want to go further in a K-12 environment. The iMac option is probably more reflective of what sort of world the kids will eventually enter and certainly gives them and my staff more opportunity to experiment, design and play.

Given that my system and software image is pushing 30GB at present, the 40GB drive on the base eMac doesn't leave much room for storage — especially if I have multiple mobile users on each machine.

Additionally, eMacs have problems with speakers (does Jonathon I've ever visit a classroom?). Their speakers, at just the right level for spotty boys to poke at with pens, end up with punctured cones,

then a bedraggled look, and it's all downhill from there.

I know, in education, some of us expect machines that are low cost, manufactured from a material that will withstand a tactical nuclear attack and have the capacity

for every possible peripheral, yet are available with none for cost-saving purposes.

There will be those who don't agree, but I think, on balance, I'm going to go with the iMacs.

I'll get fewer, but this will encourage group work. I'll have the flexibility to accommodate almost any class, from a web exploration class to students wanting to use Final Cut; the Adobe Creative Suite will fly and I will have bought myself some longer-term insurance in that the machines will remain current for longer than a G4-equipped eMac.

Of course, if Apple decides to release an education version of the iMac, with optional wireless and Bluetooth, I'll go for that.

Next year, of course, I'll have an even bigger task on my hands — I've spent so much of my time in the past putting "Intel inside"/"Idiot outside" stickers on Wintel computers, and in 2006 the Intel Mac debuts. Sigh.

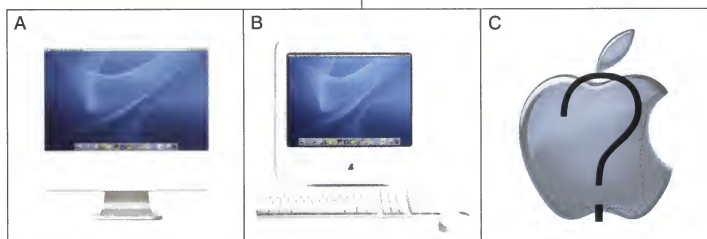
Think it's time for my meds. ☹

**As an educator, Martin Levins likes empowering people to create using computing technologies.**



### Hot Links

[listserv.cuny.edu/archives/macenterprise.html](http://listserv.cuny.edu/archives/macenterprise.html)  
MacEnterprise listserver subscription site.







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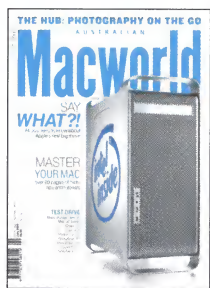
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## Keep in touch on the road



## Hot Links

[www.mac.com](http://www.mac.com)  
 Apple's .Mac service  
[del.icio.us](http://del.icio.us)  
 Online bookmarks  
[del.icio.us/doc/about](http://del.icio.us/doc/about)  
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[www.shoebbox.com.au](http://www.shoebbox.com.au)  
 Australian site similar to Flickr in many ways  
[fecklessmind.com/main/10/flidget---the-flickr-widget](http://fecklessmind.com/main/10/flidget---the-flickr-widget)  
 Flidget, the Flickr widget

## Web apps work anywhere

**M**OST of us have used a web-based e-mail service to check our inboxes, but such services aren't the only web-based applications out there – others offer credible alternatives to iPhoto, iSync, and even (for reading RSS feeds and maintaining lists of bookmarks) Safari itself.

No, using a web-based application isn't the same as using a native Mac app. Web programs do have one distinct advantage: they're available from any computer connected to the net, whether that system (Mac or PC) is at a friend's house, an office, or an internet café.

And your files are available, too: imagine that you've bookmarked a web page on your home Mac, and you find yourself stuck at the office, unable to remember that URL. If you'd stored it using a web-based bookmark app, you could just log in and find it.

If you own more than one Mac, web-based apps are an inexpensive, easy way to keep your information in sync. The more you migrate your programs and data to the web, the less you'll depend on any one computer.

Web apps offer a bonus: the best of them can help you find out what other users are doing with similar information. They add a social dimension to computing that stand-alone Macs just can't match.

**Bookmarks to go.** Using .Mac and iSync, you can already save your Safari bookmarks online, along with your Address Book contacts. To see those bookmarks (in a pop-up window) on any Mac or PC, just go to .Mac (see "Hot links") and click on Bookmarks in the top navigation bar. There's another bookmark application – the free del.icio.us (that's the URL: del.icio.us) – that takes online bookmarking to a whole new level.

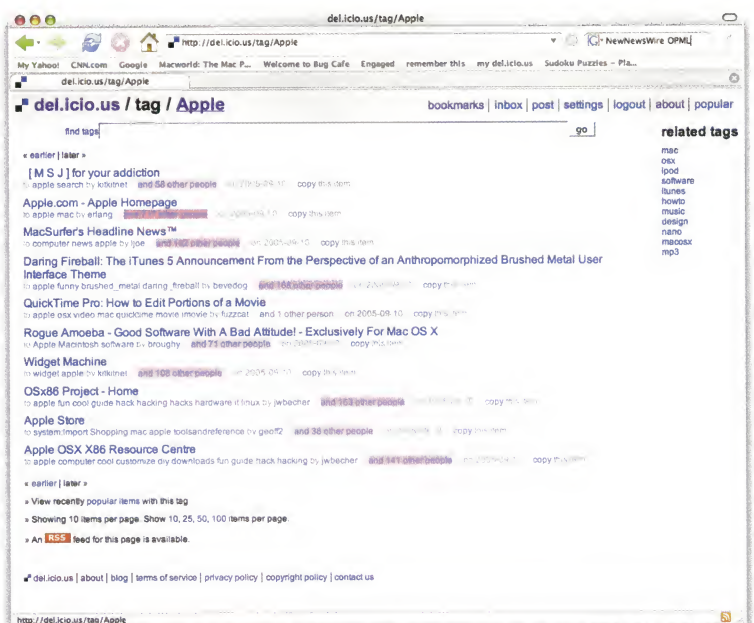
The difference between del.icio.us and .Mac's bookmark syncing seems minor at first: del.icio.us lets you assign one or more keyword tags to each bookmark. Those tags are the crux of the app. In addition to helping you

organise your own favourite links, they can help you find the favourites of other del.icio.us users.

For example, if you want to see sites other del.icio.us users have tagged with the keyword Apple or Mac, you could point your browser to del.icio.us/tag/apple or del.icio.us/tag/mac. So instead of having a mechanical search engine spit out a list of sites with the word Apple or Mac in their text, you can let other human beings tell you which sites they think are relevant.

These social connections go deeper still: when you add a bookmark to del.icio.us, it will tell you how many other users bookmarked the same page. It will also allow you to flip through their link collections. Find a user who shares your interests, and you're sure to find plenty of new and interesting web sites.

**More than a spider.** Instead of relying on mechanical search engines, del.icio.us uses tags applied by real human beings to find relevant web links.





At the moment, you can't import bookmarks into del.icio.us as simply as you can into .Mac and iSync, but a del.icio.us bookmarklet is available for Safari, Mozilla's Firefox, Opera Software's Opera, and Microsoft's Internet Explorer (see "Hot links" for details). After you've installed it, you can click on it to add the current web page to your del.icio.us collection.

While the spartan, no-nonsense design of the del.icio.us web site keeps things running fast, Mac users accustomed to a more polished interface should test-drive Sci-Fi Hi-Fi's Cocalicious (see "Hot links"). The Mac-only Cocalicious puts an iTunes-esque front end on the del.icio.us engine, making bookmark organisation even simpler.

RSS fans, take note: if you use Ranchero Software's NetNewsWire or NetNewsWire Lite to read your RSS feeds, go to the program's Preferences menu, click on the Weblog Editor button, and select Cocalicious from the drop-down menu. The next time you come across a good link in one of your RSS feeds, click on the Post To Weblog button at the top of the NetNewsWire Lite window to send the URL to Cocalicious and, from there, to your fellow del.icio.us users.

**RSS for road warriors.** Speaking of RSS: having a customised stream of web news delivered directly to your Mac is undeniably convenient. Thanks to Safari's built-in RSS support in OS X Tiger, more Mac users are collecting and reading RSS feeds than ever before.

One big reason RSS is so popular is that it makes keeping track of which stories you've read and which you haven't easy. Once you've read a story, it's marked as read — but what if you're a mobile user who hops from computer to computer? Your RSS reader can't keep up with where you've been or what you've read. Browsing RSS feeds on the web eliminates that headache — and has a few other benefits.

Bloglines (see "Hot links") is one of the best online RSS tools around. It lets you follow your favourite news feeds within a two-panel interface similar to that of stand-alone RSS readers.

While you can subscribe to feeds directly, Bloglines also makes it simple to import feeds from your current news reader — as long as your RSS reader exports data in the OPML format.

**RSS on the road.** Even if you're away from your Mac, you can use Bloglines to keep up-to-date on all your RSS feeds — and you can import them from your current RSS reader.

The screenshot shows the Bloglines website in a web browser. The browser's address bar displays <http://www.bloglines.com/myblogs>. The page title is "Bloglines | My Feeds". The interface is divided into two main panels. The left panel, titled "My Feeds", contains a list of 74 feeds, including "43 Folders", "ADC Reference Library Updates (200)", "The Agonist (193)", "Apple Computer Knowledge Base Ch 2004-08-10 (200)", "Apple Matters (199)", "Apple Press Releases (200)", "Apple Support - Most Recent AirPort (161)", "Apple Support - Most Recent iPod A (200)", "Apple Support - Most Recent iTunes (119)", "Apple Support - Most Recent Mac OS (200)", "Ars Technica (200)", "BBC News | News Front Page | World E", "BBC News | News Front Page | Worl (191)", "Bloglines | News", "Boing Boing", "Brad DeLong's Website (200)", "chez pim (200)", "Chocolate & Zucchini (200)", "Christian Science Monitor | Top Stor", "CJR Daily (200)", "CNET News.com (39)", "CNET News.com (200)", and "Cool Tools (199)". The right panel displays a detailed view of the "43 Folders" feed. It shows the feed's title, a description, the number of items (200), and the last update time (Fri, Sep 9 2005 9:14 AM). Below this, several feed items are listed, including "Real Simple: 19-minute daily cleanup" by Merlin on Tips, "Calm Technology: How do I know when I need to know?" by Merlin on Productivity, "Tips on maintaining concentration" by Merlin on Tips, and "Podcasts of non-commercial and public radio shows" by Merlin on Tips. Each item includes a brief description, the posting date, and links for "Email This" and "Clip/Blog This".



In NetNewsWire Lite, for example, you go to File: Export Subscriptions, select a name and destination for your export file, and choose a format for the export – OPML (With Groups) will preserve whatever groupings you've created to organise your feeds. Then click on Save.

Back at Bloglines, go to the My Feeds tab, click on Edit, and then click on the Import Subscriptions link. In the pane on the right, fill in the path of your exported OPML file and click on the Import button. (Unfortunately, Safari doesn't export in OPML, but if you're comfortable using Terminal, you can use a shell script – see "Hot links" – to export your Safari feeds.)

Like del.icio.us, Bloglines is more than just a convenient way to access an application when you're away from your Mac. It, too, has a social aspect to it. It will point out the day's most-linked-to topics on the web. It'll also let you share your subscriptions with other people and allow you to check out feeds other users are subscribed to and the web sites they enjoy. Again, chances are you'll stumble across something good.

**The online shoebox.** While the photo-sharing site Flickr (see "Hot links") doesn't let you edit your photos the way iPhoto does, it can help you organise, save, and share even the heftiest photo collection. In fact, Flickr is better than iPhoto in a couple of ways.

First of all, because it's web-based, multiple users can share a single account (a basic one is free). That makes it easy to trade and organise photos between, say, the family G5 at home and an iBook in a faraway dorm.

Second, like del.icio.us and Bloglines, Flickr is inherently social, thanks to keyword tagging. For families sharing a Flickr collection, tags are an easy way to find photos featuring, say, baby visiting grandma. If you make a picture public, other Flickr users can search against your tags, comment on your pictures, or even add tags of their own.

Why would you want to search someone else's snapshots? Say you're planning a trip to Rome. You could go to Flickr, search for the tag Rome, and get some ideas for sites you might want to see. Even better, you might get some travel tips in the attached comments. That's what makes Flickr so much more than a way to share snapshots.

With its Uploadr companion app for OS X, Flickr also makes it easy to upload photos via the web or e-mail (the latter is perfect for camera phones, since it bypasses the tedium of downloading images to your Mac first). Flickr actually works best in conjunction with iPhoto. The free Flickr Export Plugin for iPhoto, developed by Fraser Speirs, provides the missing link between both applications, helping you copy your iPhoto library to the web.

Another way to quickly add a photo to Flickr is the Flidget Dashboard widget for Tiger (see "Hot links"). It provides just enough of an interface for you to tag your photos and set their privacy level.

That integration between iPhoto and Flickr is how things should work: you can let your desktop apps do what they do best, while web apps make your data available wherever you are, even if you're away from your Mac. Until we realise the dream of truly ubiquitous computing, web apps will have to do. ☞

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## Microsoft vs Microsoft





## Back to basics

### It takes all types

■ In Help folder 10.2005, Peter Schaper asked about the different file extensions which fly around our computers.

File extensions (usually three letters), such as ".txt", indicate what data is stored in the file — in this case, a plain text file. Traditionally, file extensions were used by operating systems such as Windows and Unix, but Apple has been moving towards greater reliance on file extensions with the introduction of Mac OS X.

Previously, Mac OS kept track of the type of file and creating application with two four-character hidden codes called the filetype and creator. Although these two attributes are still honoured in Mac OS X, most applications now rely more heavily on the file extension to determine whether it can handle the file or not.

There are literally thousands of file types — you could get lost for a week reading through a comprehensive list such as the one at FILEExt (see "Hot links"). A much shorter list of some of the more common ones are listed at Janice Walker's web site at Georgia

Southern University in the States (see "Hot links").

The accompanying table shows some of those common file types (plus a couple of extras I've added), the file type and some Mac applications that can open the files. This is by no means an exhaustive list — CorelDraw can open some of the formats listed for Illustrator and FreeHand, for example, and I certainly couldn't list all of the file extensions *Macworld* readers would see in an average week, but the listed extensions would probably cover the vast majority of those seen by most Mac users. If I've omitted your favourite file type or

application, please accept my apologies.

If you're unsure if your Mac can handle a file extension, just double-click on it to see if your Mac already knows about it. If that doesn't work, type the extension into the search field at a site like VersionTracker or MacUpdate (see "Hot links") — those sites will usually return a list of programs which can handle the file type. The description of those programs will also likely espouse how much better they handle that file type than a built in application in Mac OS X, if any of those programs do handle the file type.

### Extension File type

### Mac Applications

ai	Illustrator	Same (import into FreeHand, PhotoShop, InDesign, etc)
csv	Comma Separated Values	Excel, OpenOffice.org, NeoOffice/J, FileMaker
cwk	AppleWorks/ClarisWorks	Same (import into most versions of Word)
doc	Microsoft Word	Same, OpenOffice.org, NeoOffice/J (TextEdit to some extent)
eps	Encapsulated PostScript	Illustrator, FreeHand (import into QuarkXPress or InDesign)
gif	Graphics Interchange Format	PhotoShop, GraphicConverter (view in Preview, web browsers, QuickTime Player)
indd	InDesign	Same
jpg	JPEG	PhotoShop, GraphicConverter (view in Preview, web browsers, QuickTime Player)
mov	QuickTime	QuickTime Player, iTunes v6, iPhoto '05
mp3	MPEG Audio (Layer 3)	iTunes (play in QuickTime Player)
pdf	Portable Document Format	Acrobat, Preview (can import into InDesign, QuarkXPress and PageMaker)
pm4, pm5, pm6	PageMaker	Same (can be opened and converted by InDesign)
png	Portable Network Graphics	PhotoShop, GraphicConverter (view in Preview, web browsers, QuickTime Player)
ppt	Microsoft PowerPoint	Same, OpenOffice.org, NeoOffice/J
ps	Postscript	Illustrator, Preview (converted to PDF), FreeHand
psd	Photoshop	PhotoShop, Preview
qxd	QuarkXPress file	Same (can be opened by InDesign, sort of)
tif	Tagged Image Format file	PhotoShop, GraphicConverter (view in Preview, web browsers, QuickTime Player)
txt	Text ASCII	TextEdit, Word (view in web browsers)
xls	Microsoft Excel file	Same, OpenOffice.org, NeoOffice/J
zip	Compressed Zip file	Finder (in Tiger), Stuffit Expander

## Pest removal

## 4

■ Several weeks ago I upgraded to a new iMac at work and at home, both running Mac OS X v10.3.5. Somehow, in the transfer of files from old Macs to new, I've inherited/copied a file called "\_\_\_Move&Rename" which now resides on both Macs and won't shift.

Any assistance you could render as to what these files are and how to be rid of them would be very much appreciated.

Andrew Zagdanski  
St Leonards, NSW

Open the Utilities folder (in the Applications folder), then open the Terminal application. Type in `sudo rm -r` (including a trailing space after the `-r`), then drag the offending folder into the Terminal window. It will automatically type in the whole path to the folder, including the proper way of typing special characters like "&" and the three control characters at the start of the name.

Press Return, then give the admin password for your computer — you may also be asked to override the permissions for that folder. Say yes to that, and the folder should be deleted.

If that still doesn't work, try out iEmpty (see "Hot links"), a free utility which is designed for situations like this.

## Microsoft Reader tip

■ In the default settings iMovie HD will letterbox imported 16:9 movies. In the 10.2005 issue David Pogue posed a solution, I think a bit ponderous, to this problem. A more satisfying method of overcoming this issue is to set up the project as DV Widescreen to start with.

To do this, simply select DV Widescreen as the format in the Create Project dialogue box. If your using a PAL camera this approach will not work unless you manually change the frame rate to the PAL rate of 25 fps from default NTSC rate of 29.97 fps. This is done in Preferences (New project frame rate) and must

be set before you create the new project.

Each month, Microsoft gives a free Notebook Optical Mouse valued at \$70 to the Australian Macworld reader who submits the best tip.

Sized for mobility and designed to be noticed, Microsoft Notebook Optical Mouse 3000 offers great comfort for either hand and is always good to go. E-mail your tip, together with your name, address and phone number, to matthew.powell@niche.com.au. All reader tips published become the sole property of Niche Media.



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## Picture this

**Photoshop Elements 3 QuickSteps** is a full-colour, do-it-this-way treatment of Adobe's budget image manipulation software. The no-nonsense approach, which makes no attempt to engage the reader with humorous asides or snippets of frivolous information, should appeal to busy A to Z types. After familiarisation with the Elements interface and acquiring images from a variety of sources, you'll soon be making selections and using layers to retouch and repair images. Then you'll learn how to use colour effectively, how to manipulate the various painting and drawing tools, how to apply special effects, and how to give your type that professional look. Finally you'll learn how to automate repetitive tasks and how to optimise your images for print and the web.

Following the *QuickSteps* formula, there's generous use of high-quality visuals, an abundance of sidebars with short cuts, summaries, bonus information and warnings.

**Photoshop Elements by Example** is a compendium of over 30 sample projects with the files available to download from the book's web site. Definitely not for A to Z types, the wide variety of projects can be sampled in any order. Learn by doing and have fun in the process is the mantra here as we work through some fascinating examples. Skilful cropping techniques and application of the "rule of thirds" infuse drama and focus into otherwise unremarkable images. Clever background manipulation and some neat hand colouring techniques bring amazing new life to old black and white photos. Then there's the best visual explanation I've seen of the application of the clone tool to remove unwanted objects.

Other projects include using artistic filters to transform photos into convincingly realistic paintings; ageing a contemporary photo with scratches, torn edges and sepia; turning an ordinary pic into a glamour portrait and then featuring it on the cover of the magazine you've just designed; using Elements' shapes and gradient fills to authentically simulate 3D ... there are plenty more of equal fascination. There is enough variety in the projects to suit all tastes and I could see this title becoming a real hit with high school art students.

**Broadcast Graphics On The Spot** — *Timesaving Techniques Using Photoshop and AfterEffects for Broadcast and Post-*

Title	<b>Photoshop Elements 3 QuickSteps</b>
Author	<b>Carole Matthews and Doug Sahlin</b>
Publisher	<b>Osborne</b>
ISBN	<b>0072258594</b>
RRP	<b>\$29.95</b>



Title	<b>Broadcast Graphics On The Spot</b>
Author	<b>Richard Harrington, Glen Stephens and Chris Vadnais</b>
Publisher	<b>CMP Books</b>
ISBN	<b>1578202736</b>
RRP	<b>\$49.95</b>



### Hot Links

[shop.osborne.com/cgi-bin/osborne/0072258578.html](http://shop.osborne.com/cgi-bin/osborne/0072258578.html)  
Get sample files from *Photoshop Elements by Example*

*Production* is designed to fill a gap in the information market for graphic artists and designers working in television and video. "Photoshop and AfterEffects are great programs ... the problem is separating the cream from the skim milk". Definitely not for beginners, the 300 or so tips are loosely organised so that you can dive in anywhere — especially if you've got a deadline to meet. Topics include tuning the software for maximum performance, dealing with a variety of source material, using layers and channels effectively, creating still and motion backgrounds for TV and creating readable, flicker-free, broadcast-safe type.


You'll also learn how to use chroma key on a deadline and a budget, to apply automation and templates to speed up your work

flow, to design still and animated logos and "over the shoulder" graphics, to employ special effects creatively and to make sure your graphic creations get to air at the highest quality.

**iMovie HD and iDVD 5** — *The Missing Manual* is a must-have for Mac users new to the iLife world. Those who have pretty well come to terms with version 4 of iMovie and iDVD may want to consider whether the new features in version 5 make the investment in this book worthwhile.

Building on successful earlier incarnations of this title, the book starts with a crash course in capturing quality footage. There are useful tips on shot selection, sound recording, lighting and composition as well as a quick primer on the particular requirements of special events such as stage performances, sports and weddings. In the second section you'll learn everything about editing your footage, using transitions, FX, titles, narration, music and sound.

Part three covers the various output options — tape, web and DVD.

Part four picks up from this point and covers iDVD from importing finished video from iMovie and then building the project right through to delving into iDVD's workings and playing around. iMovie and iDVD are still simple to use but now have a lot of features they didn't have when they first started. Lavishly illustrated in full colour, this book will be a boon companion to have by your side on your epic journey from camcorder to DVD. 

**Keith has been a Mac addict since 1984 and still can't fathom why there is anyone who isn't.**

Title	<b>Photoshop Elements by Example</b>
Author	<b>Mark Clarkson</b>
Publisher	<b>Osborne</b>
ISBN	<b>0072258578</b>
RRP	<b>\$49.95</b>



Title	<b>iMovie HD and iDVD 5 The Missing Manual</b>
Author	<b>David Pogue</b>
Publisher	<b>O'Reilly</b>
ISBN	<b>0596100337</b>
RRP	<b>\$55.00</b>





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EXPIRY

**System Requirements:** Mac® OS 10.3, iMac™ or G3 350 MHz or faster processor, or Microsoft® Windows® 98 SE, 2000, Me, XP, NT® (with Service Pack 5 or higher) Pentium® 350MHz or faster processor; 256 MB RAM, 350 MB free hard-disk space, CD-ROM drive, 800x600 resolution, millions of colours, Mouse, Sound Card and speakers recommended, Printer and internet access recommended.



AUSTRALIAN  
**Macworld**



## ► "Get this party started" competition

It's the party season yet again — that time of year when everyone in the country tries their hand at being an amateur DJ and jump-starting their parties and barbies with toe-tapping tunes.

What accessory could be more ideal for such a task than Altec-Lansing's InMotion 7, the go-anywhere portable speaker system for iPod? Simply dock your iPod into the InMotion 7 (all dockable iPods are supported, including the iPod with video), hit play, and away you go. InMotion 7 can be run off mains power or batteries for beach parties, and it also features a monitor output so you can present your iPod's video library on the big screen.

Australian distributor Innovision and *Australian Macworld* are offering one reader the opportunity to win this fantastic prize valued at \$449.

## ► How to enter.

We don't want to give this prize to just anybody. Such cool speakers would be wasted on any but the coolest music at the jumpinest parties. The winner of this prize will prove to us that they are the ultimate DJ.

Simply jot down your list of the first ten songs you would play to get your party started and send them in an e-mail to [matthew.powell@niche.com.au](mailto:matthew.powell@niche.com.au) with the subject header "Get this party started" or by post to "Get this party started", Australian Macworld, level 3, 165 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda Victoria 3182. The playlists will be judged by our panel of extremely cool judges with impeccable taste in both music and parties, and the toe-tappingest list will take the prize.

Please do not send actual recordings. Entries must be received by 5pm on Monday the 9th of January 2006.

## ► Conditions of entry.

Instructions on "How to enter" form part of the conditions of entry. Entry is open to all readers of *Australian Macworld* except employees of Niche Media (ABN 13 164 613 529) and Innovision Technology (ABN 22 703 705 082), their immediate families and agencies. The contest opens at 9am on Wednesday the 30th of November 2005 and closes at 5pm on Monday the 9th of January 2006. Entries received outside these times will not be accepted. Entry is by e-mail to [matthew.powell@niche.com.au](mailto:matthew.powell@niche.com.au) with the subject header "Get this party started" or by post to "Get this party started" Australian Macworld, level 3, 165 Fitzroy Street St Kilda, Victoria 3182. Entries will be judged on creativity and skill — chance plays no part in this competition. Judges' decision is final. The prize consists of one Altec Lansing InMotion 7 portable speaker system valued at \$449. Winner's name will be published in the February 2006 issue of *Australian Macworld*, on sale Wednesday the 25th of January 2006.

## AMW Lab: Budget LCDs

### *More than ever for your money?*

SO you can finally afford a Macintosh, now that the Mac mini has hit the stores. Before you rush out and splurge \$800 of your hard-earned, there are a few extra items required. For starters, the Mac mini doesn't ship with a keyboard or mouse in the box, so you'll need to buy one of each if you don't already own USB-capable versions. And of course, there's no monitor.

You might be happy with Apple's selection of keyboards and mice to go with your new Mac mini (if not we'll be testing a bunch next issue). However, Apple's bottom of the range monitor is a 20" widescreen cinema display LCD with a price tag of \$1249. Instead, you could buy an iMac, which ships with a screen, for \$48 less than the price of a Mac mini with a 20" cinema display. Granted, you get a superb display for the money, but if you chose a Mac mini to save money you'll have to look outside the Apple-branded offerings for a budget display.

Apple has made it easy for you to choose a monitor from another vendor by equipping the Mac mini with a standard DVI port and also including a VGA adaptor in the box. Gone is the Apple-only ADC connector of old — now you can shop for monitors at any computer shop, even if the sales staff only speak Windows.

You can plug just about any monitor you can get your hands on into a Mac mini, including old glass-tube clunkers. However, for less than \$400 you can get a 17" LCD display, which equates to about 19" of old-style CRT display, without the heat or desktop real estate requirements. Of course, you can still get a CRT if you want one — this year at least — and it will cost a lot less than an LCD. If you're looking for the absolute lowest cost display for your Mac mini, a glass monitor is still the answer.

Outstanding



Very good



Good



Flawed



Unacceptable



Dangerous



We evaluate, rigorously test and give detailed assessments of new-release software and hardware.



BenQ FP71G+S



DiamondDigital DV177SB



	BenQ FP71G+S	DiamondDigital DV177SB	ViewSonic VX724
■ Type	low-cost 17-inch LCD		
■ Rating	★★★★½	★★★★	★★★★
■ Pros	Works out of the box at maximum resolution	Auto display setup button, height adjustable stand	Super fast 3ms display
■ Cons	No real vices	Separate power pack	Most expensive unit tested
■ Resolution	1280 × 1024, 8ms	1280 × 1024, 8ms	1280 × 1024, 8ms
■ Ports	VGA, DVI	VGA, DVI	VGA, DVI
■ Street	\$325	\$409	\$500
■ Manufacturer	BenQ	Mitsubishi	ViewSonic
■ Distributor	BenQ Australia 02 9352 8800	Mitsubishi Electric 1800 811 212	ViewSonic Australia 131 632
■ Reviewer	Ian Yates		
■ Hot links	<a href="http://www.benq.com.au">www.benq.com.au</a>	<a href="http://www.mitsubishi.com.au">www.mitsubishi.com.au</a>	<a href="http://www.viewsonic.com.au">www.viewsonic.com.au</a>



ViewSonic VX724



SyncMaster 740N

Don't waste time looking at 15" LCDs – they have all gone the way of the dinosaurs and 17" LCDs are now considered "entry level". Space considerations would be the only reason I can think of to choose a 15" LCD display, since they are now priced about the same as the larger 17" models we tested. AMW lab tested six low-cost 17" LCDs – the BenQ FP71G+S, Samsung SyncMaster 740N, Mitsubishi Diamond Digital DV177SB, LG Flatron L1750, Philips 170S6 and the ViewSonic VX724 – and there wasn't a lemon amongst them.

Unfortunately, ViewSonic was in the middle of an upgrade to its budget displays, so we couldn't test its entry-level model. Instead we took a look at the hot new VX724, which will cost you around \$500 – just a little higher than our stated budget for this test. For the extra \$100 you get a 3ms response display, so if you

intend to spend a lot of time viewing movies and/or playing action games, the extra speed might tempt you to stretch the budget a little further. ViewSonic assured AMW that it would have a new model available at the \$400 price point very soon, and of course you can still buy the previous model while stock lasts.

**Talk to the Mac.** I had no problems making any of these displays work just fine on the Mac mini, although those with only a VGA port required a quick adventure into System Preferences to select the maximum resolution, which is 1280 × 1024 in all cases. The displays that have a DVI port allowed the Mac mini to switch automatically to maximum resolution. I ran Adobe's Photoshop CS2 and Apple's Final Cut Pro to make sure the displays didn't flicker or get fazed by video streaming. All of them were well up to the task, even the Philips 170S6 which has "only" a 12ms display.

It's quite difficult to pick the difference in picture quality between these displays, no doubt because of the commonality of many of the parts used to build them, particularly the LCD panels.

## On the market

Other sub-\$400 17-inch LCDs that were not tested for this roundup

	Acer AL1715M	AG Neovo F-417	CMV CT-730D
■ Resolution	1280 × 1024, 12ms	1280 × 1024, 12ms	1280 × 1024, 8ms
■ Ports	VGA	VGA	VGA, DVI
■ Street	\$402	\$365	\$369
■ Manufacturer	Acer	AG Neovo	Chi Mei
■ Distributor	Acer Australia 1300 366 567	Camcom 02 9418 8888	Impact Systems Technology 02 9621 2999
■ Hot links	<a href="http://www.acer.com.au">www.acer.com.au</a>	<a href="http://www.camcom.com.au">www.camcom.com.au</a>	<a href="http://www.impactsystems.com.au">www.impactsystems.com.au</a>

SyncMaster 740N	LG Flatron L1750	Philips 170S6
Auto display setup button	Auto display setup button	Auto display setup button
No DVI	No DVI	No DVI, 12ms display
1280 × 1024, 8ms	2048 × 1536, 8ms	1280 × 1024, 12ms
VGA	VGA	VGA
\$375	\$365	\$375
Samsung	LG	Philips
Samsung 02 9763 9700	LG Electronics Australia 1800 725 375	Philips Australia 1300 651 993
www.samsung.com.au	au.lge.com/index.do	www.philips.com.au



LG Flatron L1750



Philips 170S6

Unlike CRT displays, which had a wide-range of colour and focus variations, even within the same models, LCD panels either work or they don't. Even the dreaded dead pixels are now rare, with most manufacturers promising zero defects out of the box.

Although each display has front panel buttons to access brightness and contrast and a menu of seemingly endless extra options, all but the BenQ have an "auto" button that seemed to do a far better job of setting the display correctly than I was able to achieve by fiddling. The BenQ didn't need an auto button because it is designed to choose the best settings for you automatically, which of course you can then fiddle with if you aren't happy, or if you are matching your display to a printer for colour accuracy.

**Just one look.** You might well find yourself basing your choice on the display stand that best suits your desk, if you aren't swayed solely by the lowest price.

All the displays follow a similar design philosophy, with a square panel on top of a tilt-stand. None of them provided a

swivel function, but the Mitsubishi and the LG have a built-in height adjustment, saving you from deploying last-year's phone book as a monitor stand. However, the Mitsubishi was the only one with a separate power-pack. The others all accept a standard IEC mains cable — which you can get anywhere should you lose the one that comes in the box.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** If any one of the vendors forgot to collect their review units, we'd be happy to use their screen as the primary display here at AMW lab. The existing display here is an "old" 17" Apple Studio Display, which isn't too shabby, but it can't match the 8ms display speed offered by all but one of these budget monitors. I don't want to think about how much more than \$400 I forked out for it just a few short years ago. If it was to blow up and I had to spend some of my own money on a new display, I'd choose the BenQ for the best price with the bonus of the DVI interface. If you absolutely must have a faster display, the ViewSonic beckons for an extra \$100. 🐼

Hyundai L72D	NEC AccuSync LCD72V	Polyview V372
1280 × 1024, 8ms	1280 × 1024, 16ms	1280 × 1024, 8ms
VGA, DVI	VGA	VGA, DVI
\$379	\$379	\$352
Hyundai	NEC	Polyview
Synnex Australia 1300 100 100	NEC Australia 02 9352 8800	Aus PC-Market 02 9746 0900
www.synnex.com.au	www.nec.com.au	www.auspcmarket.com.au



■ Type	Portable media player
■ Rating	★★★★
■ Pros	Well-designed, good battery life, large, bright screen for an iPod
■ Cons	Still no removable battery or power switch, video capability limited, no FireWire
■ RRP	30GB \$449, 60GB \$598
■ Publisher	Apple Computer
■ Distributor	Apple Australia 133 622
■ Reviewer	Matthew JC. Powell
■ Hot links	<a href="http://www.apple.com/au/ipod">www.apple.com/au/ipod</a>

## Fifth-generation iPod

### *Still the best portable music player (with video)*

**Y**OU can't say Apple doesn't give its customers what they want. After literally years of saying there would never, ever be a video iPod, the company released exactly that in mid-October. Of course, it's not really a video iPod: it's properly referred to as a 5G iPod or, grudgingly, as "iPod (with video)".

Those parentheses make an important point, though. This is not, in fact, a portable video player – you won't be throwing away your TV any time soon. The iPod (with video) is a music player that happens, as a bonus extra, to be able to play videos in a limited sort of way.

To facilitate that, the latest iPod has been given a slightly larger screen than the previous model. The combination of the larger screen and the thinner body gives the impression, at first glance, that this is an iPod that's been sat on by something very heavy. It's ever so slightly longer than a 4G iPod, but retains the same width – the extra screen size is achieved by reducing the amount of bezel around the display. It's more than just aesthetic, too: the bigger, brighter screen allows more menu items to be visible at once on the main screen, and improves playability on the included games.

This iPod is also the first to feature decent sound-recording capabilities. Where previous iPods, if they could record at all, could do so in mono at a barely-passable 8KHz. Good enough for recording conversations or interviews, but only rappers and other people with low standards would try to record music on it.

In a possible nod to the growing importance of podcasts, the 5G iPod ups the ante with recording in stereo at up to 44.1KHz – that's CD quality. However, since this iPod, like the nano, eschews the remote port used by every iPod-compatible microphone on the market, it's a purely theoretical capability at this stage. As we went to press, none of the usual suspects (Griffin, Belkin etc) had announced a microphone compatible with the newest iPod.

**The speed of sound.** Another thing missing from the 5G iPod is FireWire. Now that Apple sells most of its portable wonders to Windows users, it's made the same decision that many manufacturers have made, and gone with the widely-adopted USB 2 standard for synchronising. You can charge the iPod with FireWire, but nothing else.

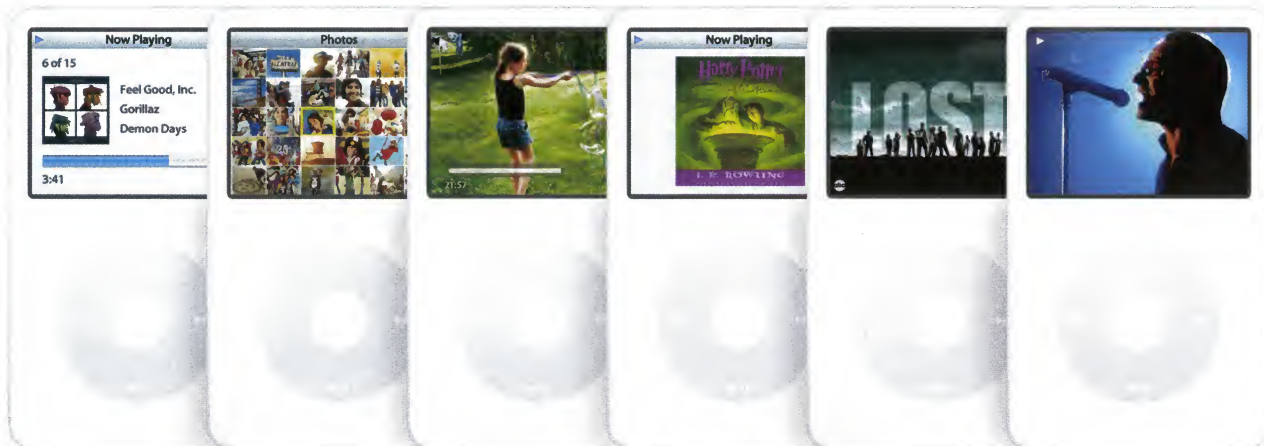
This, of course, represents a problem for those of us with Macs more than a couple of years old, with only FireWire and USB 1.1 ports. You can synchronise your iTunes library (including videos) with USB 1.1, but it's painfully slow.

Thankfully I have a PowerBook, so I could install a \$79 Belkin USB 2 PC Card (which, despite what it says on the box, works on the Mac without additional software). With the Belkin card installed, I was able to transfer an iTunes library of 15GB, including photos and videos, in about 34 minutes. The same library over USB 1.1 took just under seven hours.

We'll look at USB 2 options in PCI and PC Card varieties in the 02.2006 issue of AMW, but for those of you with older iBooks or iMacs, my advice is to learn patience if you want a 5G iPod. Plug it in before you go to bed and it'll be waiting in the morning.

**The big screen experience.** When it comes down to it, the iPod is a passable, but not great, video player. Up against, say, the Sony PlayStation Portable (another device with video shoehorned into its functionality) the iPod comes off second best for its smaller screen, but definitely gets points for portability.

And that's the key with the 5G iPod. It's not supposed to become the centre of your digital lifestyle, at least as far as video is concerned. It's supposed to be a simple, portable way for you to carry video content around for when you've nothing better to do but watch.



I used the 30G iPod to watch some music videos as well as an episode of *Lost* I got from the US iTunes Store (don't ask because I won't tell) and a feature-length film ripped from DVD (OK, come and take me away). The music videos, designed for a primarily aural small screen experience, worked best. The episode of *Lost* looked good enough, but I'd guess it will be popular with people watching last night's episode on the way to work so they'll be up to speed around the water-cooler. It won't supplant DVD sales. Watching the movie (*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, all 1:50:22 of it) gave me a headache.

You can, of course, plug the iPod into a TV set with a cable Apple sells (I also tried using a very similar-looking cable that came with my Sony camcorder, without success). On the TV, the videos Apple sells through iTMS look pretty good – almost VHS quality. Interestingly, the videos I created myself looked like rubbish, with compression artefacts and jerky motion disrupting the viewing experience. We'll look at authoring options for iPod video next issue.

**Good answer, wrong question.** Since the iPod came out several years ago, I've been asked a lot of questions about it by readers and others. Among the questions I get asked are, "when will it be able to do video", and "when will I be able to use the iTunes Music Store to fill it up". Both of these questions have been answered within the last month.


The other question I get asked a lot is, "why doesn't the iPod

have a removable/replaceable battery". That's a good question. The answer I've been given by Apple in the past is that the iPod is a towering feat of miniaturisation engineering, and making it so that the battery could be removed would add noticeably to the thickness. I've accepted that answer.

The 30GB iPod (with video) is maybe half the thickness of an iPod photo. It is aesthetically stunning, and clearly an even more towering feat of engineering to have fit all that into an even thinner package. You can't help but be impressed at the style, the elegance and the sheer thumbing of noses at the laws of physics.

Here's the thing: I have never heard anyone complain that the iPod was too darn thick. I love how thin this thing is, but I never minded how thick the last one was, and I don't get the impression too many other people did either.

While the 5G iPod's battery lasts well enough playing music (I got over 14 hours of continuous shuffle play) video takes its toll – the battery lasted just long enough for *Butch and Sundance*, but no more. If I were on a long-haul flight and wanting to watch two movies, I'd really like the option of slotting in a spare battery, and I suspect others would too.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** Without the video capability, this would be the best iPod yet. The large, bright screen, thin form factor and the option of black put it a leap ahead of the 4G iPod it replaces, and video is just a nice bonus. If you could replace the battery easily, it would be pretty near perfect. 

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	Dreamweaver 8	Fireworks 8	Flash Professional 8
■ Rating	★★★★½	★★★★½	★★★★½
■ Pros	Time-saving background FTP; visual XSLT authoring; improved CSS rendering and editing; helpful interface improvements	Can now reshape text on a path; PerspectiveShadow command makes it easier to produce graphics; new blend modes are preserved between Fireworks and Flash; new object library facilitates mobile phone design; greater bitmap support; improved batch processing features	Improved graphical effects, animation, and embedded video features; enhanced scripting environment; includes authoring for mobile devices
■ Cons	JavaScript behaviours are old; server behaviours still don't solve common problems	Live Marquee selection does not work predictably; JavaScript pop-up menu code is not totally aligned with Dreamweaver's pop-up menu code; not all Fireworks blend modes are supported in Flash	Improved vector graphics available only to viewers using Flash Player 8; video embedding works only with Flash's proprietary format
■ OS X	10.3 or later		
■ RRP	\$1510; upgrade \$605 from previous version of Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash or Freehand		
■ Publisher	Macromedia		
■ Distributor	Macromedia Asia-Pacific 1800 001 014		
■ Reviewer	David Sawyer McFarland	Abigail Rudner	David Karlins
■ Hot links	www.macromedia.com/ap		

## Macromedia Studio 8

*Web development suite features program upgrades and tight integration*

**M**ACROMEDIA is now distributing Studio 8 – probably the final release of its web design and creation software before the company is integrated into Adobe. Macromedia has tried to make its web creation tools – Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash, and Contribute – more interoperable and suite-like, and the result is tighter integration between the programs in Studio 8 than ever before.

In addition, each program within the suite has heightened capabilities, appealing to users of Studio 8's component programs. FlashPaper is now available for the Mac, too, as part of Contribute 3, which is also a part of Studio 8. Macromedia has priced Studio 8 upgrades simply: If you own a previous version of Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash or Freehand, you can upgrade to Macromedia Studio 8 for \$605.

### DREAMWEAVER 8

*Greater stability, faster performance, and new design tools*

If Adobe's purchase of Macromedia proceeds as planned, Dreamweaver 8 is the last version of the program to be produced under the Macromedia banner. It is also the best version to date, providing a streamlined workflow, new tools, more stability, and faster performance.

**Improved workflow and design tools.** Dreamweaver 8 has a tabbed document window, much like the tabbed browsing found in the Firefox and Safari web browsers, so instead of hunting through a cascade of document windows, you switch to any open file by just clicking a tab. In addition, the new Workspace Layouts let you save any arrangement of floating panels. This helpful feature lets you set up the program to match different projects – for example, you can neatly arrange all the panels you need to work with database-driven web sites – or, if you share a computer, you can save a layout of panels that matches your specific work style.

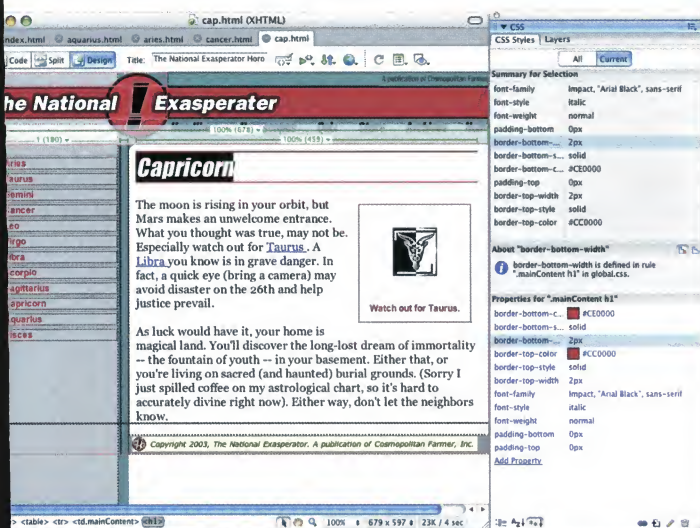
Designers will be pleased with two new features commonly found in design programs: Zoom and Guides. If your design requires pixel-level placement, you can zoom in on the document to make sure your graphics align correctly, or you can just use the Zoom to make it easier to work with small table cells.

The Guides feature lets you drag guidelines onto your page so you can more easily align elements and structure your page. The guides also let you measure, in pixels, the distance between items on a page. This is a great way to make sure you've placed a banner in an exact spot in a document.

**Better CSS support.** Dreamweaver 8 sports many enhancements to its Cascading Style Sheet support. It renders CSS more accurately than Dreamweaver MX 2004 and includes the ability to display CSS pseudo elements correctly, like `:first-line` and `:first-letter`, styled form fields, and styles that use the CSS Overflow property.

To make working with styles easier, all of the disparate panels relating to CSS in MX 2004 have been collected into one unified pane. Now, you can more easily create and edit styles, quickly see which styles are available on a page, and determine how such styles affect the appearance of an element.

One very useful addition is the ability to see all style properties that apply to a selected element. Since styles cascade – meaning properties from multiple styles can combine in different ways to impact the formatting of content – this lets you identify not only what properties a given element will finally have, but also see



**Nerve centre.** The new unified CSS panel (right) is the command and control centre for creating and editing CSS styles and analysing the complex interactions of styles on your pages.

which styles those properties belong to (CSS experts will be pleased that Dreamweaver now can show a style's specificity simply by hovering over the style in the Rules pane). Since CSS styles can be complex, this is a great tool for those new to the ins and outs of CSS as well as seasoned professionals who need to debug complex style sheets.

In addition, new visualisation tools make it easier to troubleshoot intricate CSS layouts. When you select an item that has CSS padding or margins applied to it, Dreamweaver displays light-coloured backgrounds indicating where and how large the margins and padding areas are. Dreamweaver outlines CSS block elements (for example a `<div>` tag used for displaying the banner area of a web page), and can also highlight block-level elements with a variety of background colours to quickly identify their location and size.

A new Style Rendering toolbar also helps you visualise the effect of different media style sheets on a page. For example, you can turn off "screen styles" – styles that only display on a monitor – while turning on "printer styles" so you can preview what a page would look like when printed (Dreamweaver 8 also makes it easy to attach these media-specific style sheets to your document). Or you can temporarily turn off all styles to see the clean, unformatted HTML.

**Improved stability and performance.** Dreamweaver 8 is faster and more stable than MX 2004. For example, recreating a site cache, which requires reading every file in your site, is substantially faster in Dreamweaver 8.

Dreamweaver 8 introduces a revamped FTP engine, which is a bit faster but, more importantly, adds a much-requested feature: background FTP. In MX 2004 and earlier versions, whenever Dreamweaver transferred files from your hard drive to your web server, you had to wait until it was finished before you could do any other work. This meant you either had to take a coffee break or switch to another program. Now, you can keep working on your web pages as Dreamweaver transfers files quietly in the background. Also, to help transfer files, a greatly improved file-synchro-

nisation command – it actually works reliably – ensures that your web server has the most current versions of your web documents.

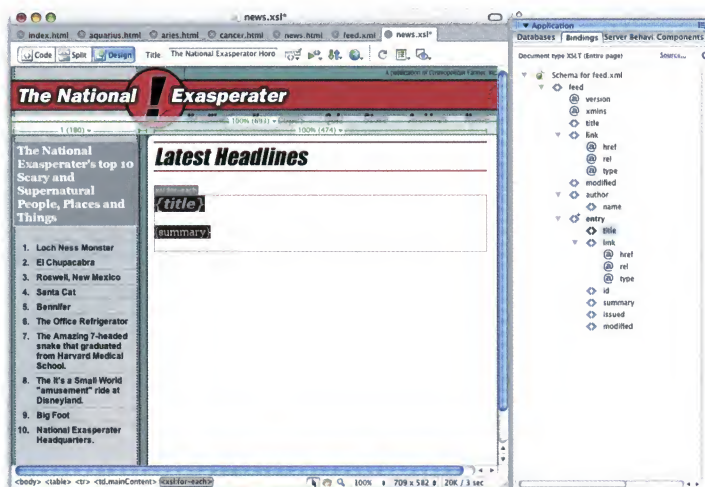
**Innovative features.** Continuing the tradition of adding innovative features with each version of the program, Dreamweaver 8 introduces a powerful approach to working with XML files: visual XSLT (Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations) authoring. XSLT is a language for taking not-so-easy-to-read, tag-based XML files and turning them into a variety of useful formats, including HTML. With this feature, you can convert an XML file into a beautiful web page, or add formatted XML information to a part of a dynamic page – a PHP, ASP, or ColdFusion page, for example.

Even if you're not working with XML files now, you can still take advantage of this feature. Imagine adding a "News from Around the World" box to your home page that includes headline news from CNN, *The New York Times*, and the BBC World Service. Since news feeds are comprised of XML data, Dreamweaver 8 makes it easy to add content from other sites directly to your own web pages.

XSLT is much more complex than HTML, but Dreamweaver 8's visual-authoring approach makes using this very complicated technology as easy as creating a basic web page.

**A little old.** Although Dreamweaver 8 offers many new benefits, it still might not answer all your web development needs. Two areas in which the program was previously a pioneer are starting to seem antiquated. Dreamweaver Behaviors – JavaScript programs that add interactive effects to a web page – haven't been significantly updated for several versions. With all current web browsers offering excellent JavaScript support, and the public's new enthusiasm for JavaScript-driven web sites such as Google Suggest and Google Maps, for example – this is an unfortunate oversight. It would be nice to see more sophisticated JavaScript form validation, better tools for dynamically changing the content of a web page with JavaScript, and an improved drop-down menu behaviour for creating navigation bars with submenus (the current behaviour for this often doesn't display properly in a web browser).

**Author! Author!** Dreamweaver 8's XSLT authoring features are an innovative approach to adding XML data to web sites.





In addition, the tools for building dynamic database-driven web sites, which wowed web designers when they were introduced in Dreamweaver MX, haven't received the same love and attention as other areas of the program. With a few notable exceptions – the exciting new XSLT authoring tools, support for PHP 5, and updated support for ColdFusion MX 7 – Dreamweaver's server-side features could use some fresh additions. For example, the program still lacks commands for solving common server-side problems such as e-mail form submissions, form validation, and complex database manipulations. Web designers

who want to add more-advanced features still have to purchase third-party extensions.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** Dreamweaver 8 is a solid upgrade with faster performance, more features, and greater stability than its predecessors. Developers will especially like its improved CSS rendering capabilities, new interface niceties, exciting new XSLT tools, and productivity-boosting background FTP. It is the best Dreamweaver version I've seen so far, and I highly recommend it.

## FIREWORKS 8

*Sleeker and more refined*

The freshly released Macromedia Fireworks 8 remains the tool of choice for designers who need to think like engineers and engineers who think like designers.

Fireworks 8 features subtle as well as obvious enhancements to optimisation, workflow, and creativity. Its powerful editing capabilities allow changes in one Macromedia Studio application to be reflected in other programs in the suite. It is the fastest, most flexible raster, vector, web image, and code creation application available, and it is well worth upgrading from MX 2004.

**Creative enhancements.** Even a mature product like Fireworks lacked certain elegant capabilities that users missed, and Macromedia has folded some of them into version 8. For example, you can now reshape text on a path and save, restore, name, and delete multiple marquee selections within PNG files (Fireworks' native file format).

The Perspective Shadow command, an elegant addition to Fireworks' Auto Shape technology, lets you add a perspective shadow to open paths and text objects. This makes it easy to create great graphics – you can make a two-dimensional object look three-dimensional – even if you can't draw.

Fireworks 8 has 25 new blend modes – some of which are supported in Flash – that let you alter the look of your colours, objects, and vector attributes (fills, strokes, filters, and blend modes). You can insert polygon slices when a selected object is a polygon path, and you can turn active selections into editable vector paths and back again, which is very convenient.

Macromedia is definitely on the right track in giving Fireworks 8 the ability to mock up mobile phone interfaces and the product ships with a library of graphics that can be mixed, matched, and edited, giving creative freedom to designers who have to work within these specific technical restraints.

**Improved workflow and optimisation.** Fireworks 8 can now import additional file formats including QuickTime Image, MacPaint, SGI, and JPEG 2000. Fireworks' new ability to handle bitmap formats such as GIF, JPEG, and TIFF signals

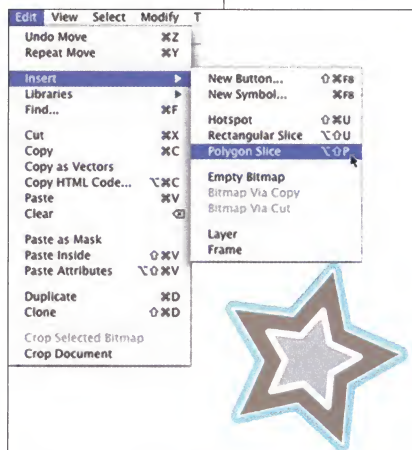
a greater integration with print file formats. A new Image Editing panel contains most tools and commands you need for working with bitmaps, expanding on MX 2004's limited bitmap functionality.

Fireworks 8 incorporates some additional conveniences: text layers are automatically named by the text you type into them and a new Special Characters panel lets you insert non-Roman letters and symbols directly into text blocks. In previous versions, when you locked a layer, all the objects in that layer would lock; in Fireworks 8, you can lock on a per-object basis – a welcome feature.

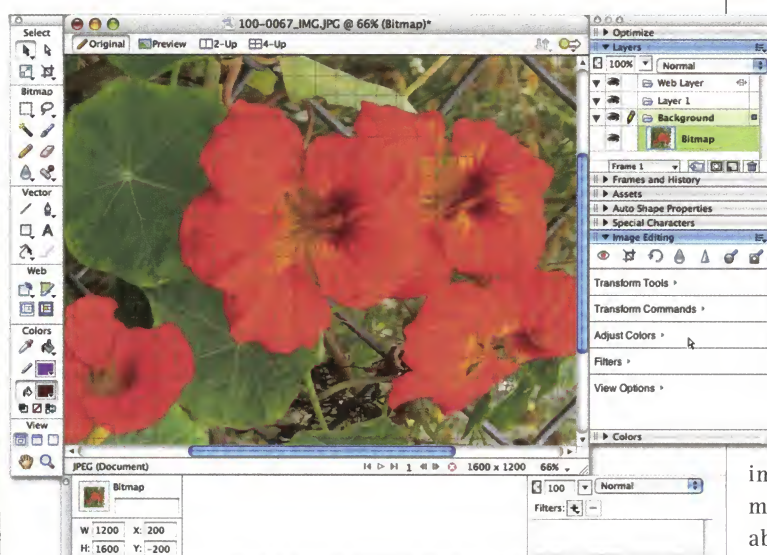
Grid lines in Fireworks are now less intrusive and resemble those in Flash: They use a lighter default grid colour and a dotted line. Another Flash goodie now in Fireworks is the ability to copy ActionScript (Flash's scripting language) colour values from Flash documents, and paste them directly into Fireworks colour value fields. This enables you to ensure colour consistency when working between the two apps.

The Fireworks batch processing features have been improved and are now catching up to Photoshop's capabilities. Improvements include a more streamlined file renaming process, the ability to check file dimensions when scaling during a batch process, and a new status bar and log file.

**Could stand improvement.** Despite some very nice enhancements to its features and interface, some of the new aspects of Fireworks are not quite there yet. For example, clicking on the Live Marquee checkbox in the Property Inspector before making a selection should allow you to change the edge settings for Bitmap selections while using the Marquee, Oval Marquee, and Lasso tools, but this did not behave consistently. When I create a selection using any of these three tools, I can change the selection edge in the Property Inspector repeatedly. However, once I move or modify the selected area, the marquee is no longer live, and the control is disabled in the Property Inspector. Macromedia is aware of the issue and says it's preparing a technical note about it.



**Another slice?**  
Fireworks 8 lets you insert polygon slices when a selected object is a polygon path.



**New toolbox.** Fireworks' Image Editing panel contains most of the tools and commands you need for working with bitmaps.

In previous versions, Fireworks let you save JavaScript-based pop-up menus, and now Fireworks 8 gives you a way to create the menus and export them as CSS. However the code it creates for these new CSS menus is less than optimal. This is because, while you can create a CSS pop-up menu in Fireworks 8 and then edit it with either Dreamweaver 8 or with Fireworks 8, the resulting code is not interchangeable. If you edit your menus in

Dreamweaver and then later edit them in Fireworks, you will lose all of Dreamweaver's CSS standard code edits, except for the text content. So, you can use Fireworks to create the pop-up menu and then use Dreamweaver exclusively to tweak and customise the menu. Or, you can edit the menus in Fireworks exclusively.

Recognising and sharing blend modes and vector styles between Fireworks and Flash (Professional version only) is very sweet, but maintaining the appearance of graphics with blend modes applied to them can be tricky. This is because Flash supports only modifiable filters and blends for objects imported as text and movie clips. If an effect or blend mode is not supported, Flash 8 will rasterise (make it uneditable) or ignore it when it is imported. When you compare the list of Fireworks blend modes to the list of Flash blend modes, you will see that only about half are actually shared between the two apps. If you want to use this feature, stick to the limited list and stay away from the rest.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** If you are the type of designer who can hand over your layout to others to slice and code, than maybe you can afford not to use Fireworks. On the other hand, if you are a designer who must code pages and sites, or an engineer who works extensively with Flash and graphically rich web site content, there's no substitute for Fireworks 8.

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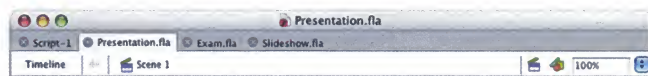
# FLASH PROFESSIONAL 8

*New graphical effects, embedded video, and scripting tools*

Flash Professional 8 constitutes a leap in the evolutionary chain for Macromedia's web video and animation authoring program; it provides significant enhancements in scripting, graphical effects, web-video display, and development of media destined for mobile devices. (Macromedia is also offering, for the first time, Flash Basic 8, a lower-priced version of the software that includes much of the program's core functionality, but which is targeted to designers who don't need high-end digital video or mobile phone authoring features.)

Flash Professional 8 is more stable and crashes less often than its predecessor, Flash MX 2004, and Mac users no longer have to go without useful features such as tabs (for toggling between multiple open documents) that were available only in the Windows version.

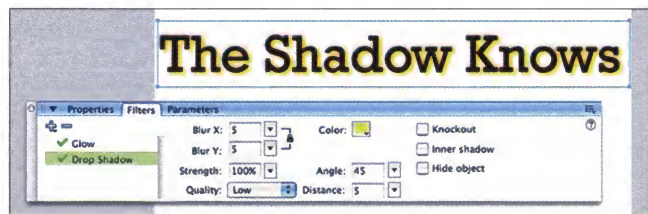
The new Flash includes better text, scripting, and video features. Improved vector graphics support higher quality gradient fills, with Illustrator-like control over gradients of as many as 16 colours.



**Real cola taste, just one calorie.** Flash 8 puts the Mac and PC versions on par with features like multiple document tabs.

**New graphical features.** Previous versions of Flash included a set of vector drawing tools that were almost powerful enough for serious, professional graphic design. With Flash 8, those tools have improved. Designers now can do more complex illustrations right in Flash. For example, Flash 8's drawing tools let you design either in Flattened mode (the only mode available until this version), in which intersecting vectors form new objects, or in Layered mode, in which vector objects can now be on top of, or below, other objects. Interestingly, Illustrator CS2's Live Paint mode is similar to the flattened Flash vector environment.

Graphics filters (similar to Illustrator's vector filters or Photoshop's bitmap filters) work with major enhancements in Flash Player 8 so that viewers can see attributes like blurs, glows, and drop shadows. That allows designers to include sophisticated vector graphics effects without significantly increasing the file size. The downside: these effects are visible only in Flash Player 8, which users may have to download.



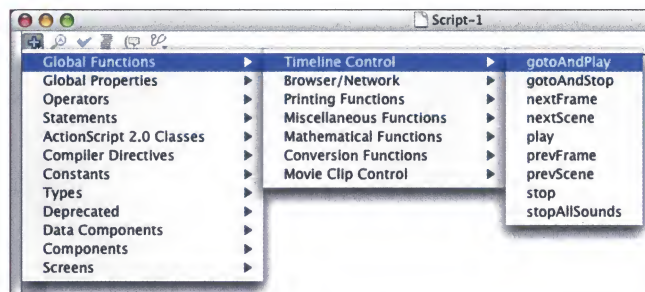
**Need a new player?** The Drop Shadow and Glow effects are supported only in the Flash 8 Player.

**Digital video package.** Flash 8 features new tools for embedding video converted from popular digital video formats and compression systems. New plug-in tools allow digital video producers to encode to Flash's FLV (Flash Video) format directly from programs like Apple's Final Cut Pro or Autodesk's Cleaner.

Flash's video encoder is also available as a stand-alone program for batch video encoding. I was impressed by how quickly and cleanly the stand-alone encoder converted video files into FLV. For example, I ignored Flash's warning that converting digital video to a Flash SWF file may produce audio synchronisation problems, and – in my experiment – the audio synchronisation worked well. Flash 8 compressed QuickTime and AVI files substantially in converting them to FLV, with no major loss of audio or display quality. However, you must encode video in Flash's proprietary FLV format.

Flash 8 also includes a new and impressive set of tools for authoring graphics and animation, including a preview-and-testing environment for mobile devices, and support for the MIDI audio format that many mobile devices use.

**Friendlier scripting.** Flash 8's Actions panel benefits from a new feature called Script Assist. This lets you create scripts without detailed knowledge of ActionScript. As a non-programmer who has hacked out enough ActionScripts to survive, I found the new scripting interface a significant improvement over the limited ActionScript help in MX 2004. Intelligent pop-up prompts make it easier to string together bug-free commands.



**Script doctor.** The new Script Assist feature makes generating ActionScripts easier for non-coders.

**Professional or Basic version?** Budget conscious Flash users – particularly those who don't need video encoding capabilities, who aren't developing for mobile devices, and who can live without the groovy new vector effects – can still create powerful animations and access the full set of ActionScript commands with Flash Basic 8, which costs significantly less than the professional stand-alone version. It may be hard to justify buying Flash Basic 8, even for its low price, if you already own a previous version of Flash. In that case, you can upgrade to the Professional version for less than purchasing the stand-alone Basic version. Moreover, many of Flash 8's most exciting improvements in embedded video, graphic effects, and refinements in animation control are available only in the Professional edition.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** Flash Professional 8 packs such a powerful and substantially enhanced set of tools for professional animation and interactive design that most professional developers will want to upgrade. Designers who were expecting a simpler, more accessible package should stick with their current installation.

## FLASHPAPER 2

*Contribute 3 utility easily converts documents into Flash files*

FlashPaper 2, part of the Macromedia Studio 8's version of Contribute 3 reviewed in *AMW* 02.2005), allows you to convert Microsoft Office documents to Flash (SWF) files.

Incorporating FlashPaper 2 into Contribute makes sense, especially for business environments where content developers who create documents can export them to Flash without knowing the program: Contribute creates HTML pages for people who don't know HTML; FlashPaper creates Flash files for people who don't know Flash.

The resulting Flash files support copy-and-paste to other applications, are text-searchable, and preserve functioning links from the source documents. Content developers working with Dreamweaver-generated templates can plug content into both HTML and Flash documents without coding.

The Windows version of Studio 8 includes a stand-alone version of FlashPaper, but in the Mac version, FlashPaper exists only as a Print dialog option for installed applications, which makes using it similar to printing a PDF file. While Macromedia tested FlashPaper only with Microsoft Office applications, FlashPaper shows up as a Print option in many other applications as well.

There is no easier way to convert documents to SWF files than using FlashPaper 2: I tried jamming the FlashPaper driver by

including images, odd line, paragraph, and word spacing, and multiple fonts in my Word files. FlashPaper stood up to the test, accurately incorporating links, colours, fonts, and images.

An obvious question is, why not just use the ubiquitous PDF format for sharing documents? PDF provides more options (for features like permissions, security, and interactive forms), but if you don't need those features, the no-frills interface of the Flash Player 8 is cleaner and easier to read than a PDF.

I enjoyed searching and reading documents in Flash Player; Reading in Flash seemed cleaner and less distracting than the endless options that appear when I open and read PDF files in the Acrobat Reader. You can scale the document easily with a slider that enlarges type interactively. FlashPaper, combined with Flash Player 8, provides the crispest small font type I've ever seen on my monitor.

FlashPaper 2 may be a more valuable addition to the Windows version of Studio 8 than it is to the Mac version, since Windows users also can use FlashPaper to convert Office files to PDF, as well as Flash (SWF) files. Mac users, of course, can already generate PDF files from documents using the Print dialog. If you want to generate small, useful SWF files from your Office documents, FlashPaper 2 is the easiest way to go.

● David Karlins

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■ Cons	Archaic interface; Exchange function lacks threaded file transfers
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■ Distributor	Channelworx 1300 883 882
■ Reviewer	Andrew T Laurence
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## Timbuktu Pro 8.5

*Stresses security and encryption, brings Tiger compatibility*

**M**ACINTOSH users and tech support crews have long used Netopia's Timbuktu Pro to interact with other machines over a network connection — through screen control, file transfer, or voice or text chat with remote users. Whereas version 7.0 brought Panther compatibility, but not much in the way of new features, Timbuktu Pro 8.5 embraces OS X's underpinnings to deliver increased security and flexibility.

Version 8.5 follows quickly on the heels of two upgrades earlier this year: Version 8.0 (released in March), and version 8.1 (released in April). Version 8.0 introduced SSH (Secure Shell) encryption, Mac OS X authentication, and remote installation; version 8.1 offered Tiger compatibility, performance improvements, and bug fixes. Version 8.5 expands on these features.

**Remote installation.** The Install service (introduced in version 8.0) allows you to install or upgrade Timbuktu on a remote computer. That Mac needs to have Remote Login, also known as Secure Shell (SSH), enabled in its Sharing system preferences, and the person doing the installation also needs to have administrator-level privileges on that machine. Once you've met these requirements, installing Timbuktu on several remote computers, each with a predetermined preference file and activation key, is a simple matter of clicking through the Install Timbuktu dialog box. Timbuktu becomes available immediately, with no restart required. Version 8.1 added the capability to log in with an administrator account's long name (such as Andrew Laurence) instead of just the short name (atlauren, for example).

**Encryption and authentication.** There are two important new security features (first introduced in version 8.0 and improved in subsequent releases). First, Timbuktu can encrypt its communications with SSH, thereby preventing miscreants from sniffing your connection and learning passwords or viewing Timbuktu's screen image. Competitors Apple Remote Desktop and the open-source VNC do not offer built-in encryption. Second, you can assign Timbuktu's access privileges to any user or group defined within OS X's directory services. That means your Timbuktu login can be the same as your Mac OS X


username and password; if a group of Macs authenticates against a common server, your login works on all machines. These features are intertwined — you can use OS X authentication only in SSH sessions, and you can encrypt with SSH only if using OS X authentication.

The familiar New Connection dialog box now has a radio button labelled Registered User (Secure), which lets you initiate an encrypted session. Timbuktu's services behave normally with encryption enabled; the only visible difference is the word "Secure" (in parenthesis) in the session window's title bar.

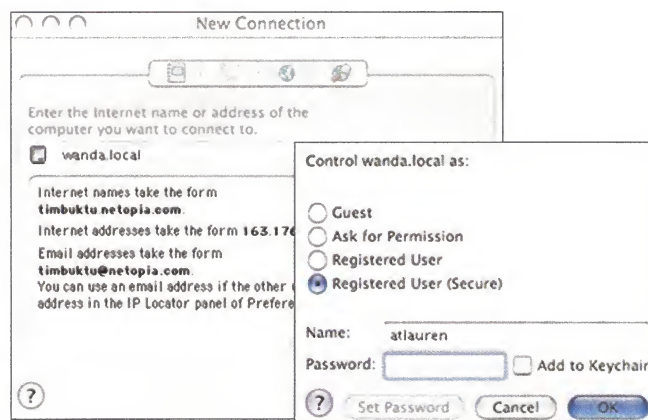
**Reaching out.** Timbuktu features Bonjour support (available since version 8.0). A pane in the New Connection window displays a list of Bonjour-enabled computers running SSH and Timbuktu. There's also a TCP Security preference that lets you put a Mac in stealth mode, so it doesn't show up in other computers' browse lists, via either Bonjour or the familiar Timbuktu Scanner. You can even limit incoming connections to SSH-secured sessions.

A few nice additions in version 8.5: You can check Netopia's web site to see if software updates are available; if you access a Mac with multiple monitors, you can view both monitors inside a single window; and improved screen and mouse control make it easier to click on objects in the corner of the remote computer's display.

**Throwback.** Because of its long history, much of Timbuktu's interface and sensibilities hail from Mac OS 9 and earlier — and they're beginning to look tired. Exchange's two-pane interface goes back to System 6, and it doesn't allow more than one transfer operation at a time. Another problem: Exchange begins sessions at the Computer level, and lists the available disk volumes; this view made sense as the desktop in Mac OS 9, but when you authenticate as a Mac OS X user, you expect to begin at that user's Home directory. In addition, Timbuktu's preferences area is due for a visual overhaul.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** Timbuktu Pro remains the gold standard for Macintosh remote control. The remote install, encryption, and user authentication features make this a must-have upgrade for anyone using 7.0 or earlier. Version 8.5's new permissions and security settings are welcome additions. 

**Security blanket.** Timbuktu can encrypt its connection with the SSH protocol. Once set up, secure logins are quick and easy.





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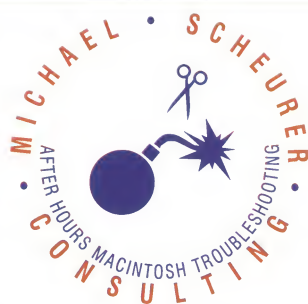


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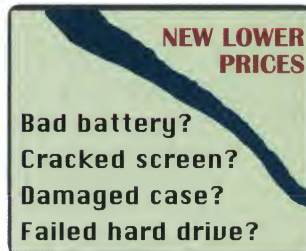
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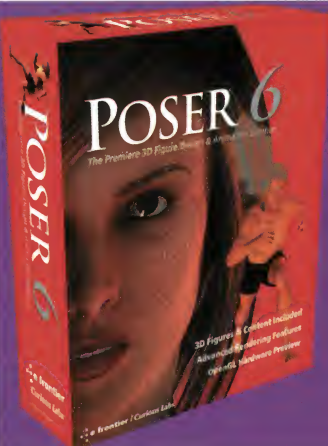
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Something to chew on.

By Alex Rieneck.

## The gift of gifting

WELL, it finally happened, as everyone knew it eventually had to, and in time for Christmas, too. Australia waited and waited, and apparently Santa (or someone) decided that Australia had been good, and deserved an iTunes Store all of its very own, and Australia got about downloading all the nice music that Australians wanted to hear. It was just like Christmas.

It's probably going to be a bit like Christmas for Apple too. After all, it's obvious that having a local iTunes Store was the only thing stopping a great many people from actually ponying up the money for an iPod all their own and, after all, it's Christmas and the iPod is a product that is still surfing on its very own wave of the future. Sales were going to be good anyway, but now they are guaranteed to be better. As well as that, it's sort of Christmassy too that iTunes 6 allows music to be "gifted" to people simply by clicking, like some highly developed form of Yuletide card.

It's better than that though. After all, while the people at Hallmark are exceptionally well paid, they aren't really in the same league as, well, music stars. Gosh no. Avril Lavigne and Shannon Noll can be relied on to be far more incisive and, like, emotional than some card that says "I'm so glad you haven't croaked it since last year," even if that card is a lovely poem, and costs nearly eight dollars, and comes in its own "extra postage" envelope — well, it's just not the same, is it?

As far as that goes, how about a gift of *Pretty Vacant* by the Sex Pistols? It sums up quite a few ideas that Hallmark seems to have steered rather clear of. For some reason. It's odd. It always makes me think of Christmas. For the completely unimaginative of course, the industrious gifting-minded mouse clicker with an iTunes store account can simply bombard whoever with whatever warblings they think their target of choice might like, or (even worse) might "need" to hear.

Never before in the history of human civilisation has wearing all black and being a hopeless pedantic basement dwelling loser been so much fun. And so empowering.

And it's just wonderful that, in Australia, in time for this Christmas, gifting music can include the wonder of gifted music videos. After all, it's not really music unless the singer looks really tops and sweaty and wears hot pants, now is it? Everyone knows that that's why Beethoven never won Eurovision.



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This man liked beer

On the other hand, anyone who wanted to gift me the odd bit of Pixar animation or, perhaps at some point in the future, some classic Warner Brothers cartoons ... now they would have the spirit of gifting down to a fine art, as far as I am concerned. So, all up, I think that Apple is surfing on the wave of the future, and playing air guitar while it does so.

It's just, well, without putting too fine a point on it, all these Apple keynotes, that seem to consist of far too many commercials featuring music by people I would happily run over — if I drove, or even if I could borrow a car. Is it just me, or is Steve Jobs trying to convince the world that he has god awful taste in music at the same time he convinces us that he has just about perfect taste in computers? What is the hidden agenda here? Are Apple users soon going to be required to be official slop pop fans?

Maybe I am just getting jaundiced, but the next time that Mr Jobs says "its all about the music," I'll probably scream. You see, it isn't. Life isn't (except for a small number of serious artists who wear hot pants), Apple isn't and nobody in their right mind would ever think it was, for even a second. "It's all about the music" is a cheap feel-good platitude that is supposed to come across as cool, but is starting to come across as creepy. Like, surely it's about the share price just a bit, or even about the joy of technology, or maybe even just slightly about all of us thinking just the slightest bit different to all the other consumers out there? Just a bit?

I, for one, am over the moon about the iPod with video, and slaving at the mouth over the idea of having my own small movies with me in my new iPod, and that this 'Pod (unlike the mini or nano) can have a microphone attached to it, so it isn't a completely passive unit — it can be used to produce, as well as to consume. I am bouncing with anticipation at seeing what happens when video blogging becomes a mass art form and as happy as Keith Moon at a beer tasting party that the world now has a whole new porno delivery medium — but honestly, who in their right mind could ever care about music videos? That you pay for?

Get real. "Think different" requires some form of thought, other than simple knee-jerk purchasing of product, that is.

After all, any mollusc can do that. ☹

**Alex Rieneck has been a technology commentator since the days of the bone abacus.**

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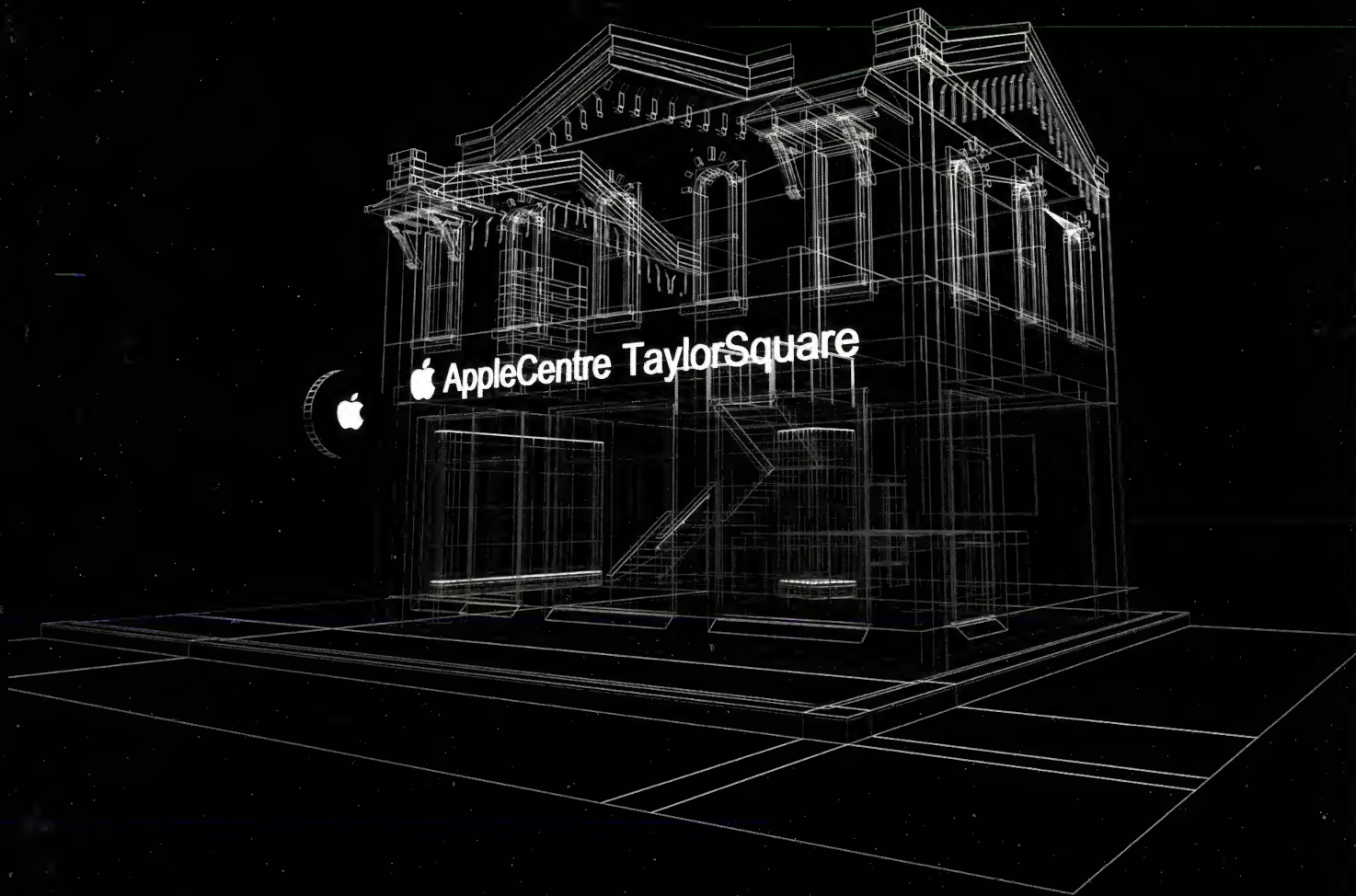
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